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Dniester Fighting Escalates

Bucharest Radio reports that as a result of "unprovoked and furious attacks" by Dniester separatist guardsmen against the Bendery police headquarters, "bloody fighting broke out" as Moldovan Interior and Defense Ministries units "came to the rescue" of the Bendery police. ITAR-TASS notes that the number of wounded and killed in Bendery is estimated at "several hundred people" but adds that "the warring sides report contradictory information." Radio Rossii reports that the Dniester region armed forces "are in full control of Bendery." Conflicting reports continue about the participation of the 14th Russian Army in the conflict.

ITAR-TASS cites President Snegur as saying: "We have to call a spade a spade—we are at war with Russia."

South Ossetian Conflict Continues

Georgia State Council Chairman Shevardnadze issued a statement on 19 June criticizing Russia's role in the fighting in South Ossetia, reports Tbilisi Radio. Shevardnadze noted that three Russian helicopters on 18 June "attacked" a Georgian National Guard unit in Tskhinvali and Georgian villages with missiles and that this participation by Russian troops gives the conflict "a new character and scale." He also noted that "Russian troops and combat equipment are being assembled on the Russian-Georgian border" and that the conflict is "being used as a pretext for far-reaching imperial adventures that are aimed at the annexation of a part of Georgian territory." Shevardnadze stated his belief that these acts were committed without Yeltsin's knowledge and that "he will put an end to this foolhardiness" upon his (Yeltsin's) return to Moscow.

Russian TV reports the Russian Government issued a statement on the "escalation" of the conflict in South Ossetia which has reached a "critical point." The "coercive actions aimed at forcing the non-Georgian population" out of South Ossetia, the statement claimed, "are a gross infringement of human rights" and the resulting stream of refugees into North Ossetia is "causing direct damage to Russian security." The government "resolutely insists on an immediate cease-fire" in the region as well as talks in the immediate future.

Yeltsin Concludes North American Visit

According to ITAR-TASS, the negotiations that took place on 19 June between Yeltsin and Canadian leader Brian Mulroney, "centered on the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, relations with Ukraine and the Baltics, the situation in Yugoslavia and preparations for the Munich meeting of the Seven." "Of prime significance among the documents signed", "was the treaty on accord and cooperation, which declares the intention of Russia and Canada to develop their relations on an amicable basis." "The treaty signifies the end of the estrangement between the two countries which has been going on for decades."

Yeltsin returned to Moscow 21 June, terming his visit to the United States a "major success," ITAR-TASS reports. He stressed that the agreements signed with President Bush on global elimination of nuclear armaments created a "good basis" for "stability in the world" and "confidence that there will be no war." Yeltsin "rejected categorically" opposition statements that the accords "betray Russia's national interests," and added that the country "did not make any concessions" on anything, and called charges to that effect "an insult."

Shaposhnikov Threatens Resuming Nuclear Testing

LD2006165392 Hamburg DPA in German 1613 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces, has announced that new nuclear tests will take place in 1993 unless the other nuclear powers also agree to halt nuclear tests by the end of the year. In an interview with BILD AM SONNTAG newspaper, Shaposhnikov said a general ban on nuclear testing would be the first step toward the planned destruction of all nuclear weapons. Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced a unilateral one-year moratorium on nuclear tests last October.

Shaposhnikov also rejected the participation of regular CIS forces in military peacekeeping operations, for instance in Azerbaijan or Yugoslavia. In such cases the CIS will set up a group of military observers and "collective forces for keeping the peace".

Missile Cuts To Lead to 'Strategic Parity'

PM1906092392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Savelyev, vice president of the Institute of National Security and Strategic Research and member of the London Strategic Research Institute, by Sergey Guk under the "Events and Comments" rubric; place and date not given: "Russian Security Will Only Be Strengthened As a Result of the New Agreements with the United States on the Reduction of Strategic Weapons"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] At IZVESTIYA's request, disarmament expert Aleksandr Savelyev, vice president of the Institute of National Security and Strategic Research and a member of the London Strategic Research Institute, comments on the new Russian-U.S. agreement on the reduction of strategic weapons.

[Guk] Seven years ago the West rejected—as propagandistic—Gorbachev's plan for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world by the year 2000. Today Yeltsin is, without any apparent effort, achieving wholesale reductions of Russian and U.S. nuclear missile potentials by a factor of two-thirds. How can you explain this?

[Savelyev] To my mind, it is wrong to speak of a wholesale reduction. You can trace very major work on details in the agreement. There is no question of any chaotic disarmament race. It is another matter that it is not entirely clear where the figure of two-thirds, which is cited in all the reports, came from. The total number of Russian and U.S. strategic weapons is in reality in the order of 21,000 units. The future limit for the sides has been determined as 6,000-7,000. But this just means sea- and land-based ballistic missile warheads. There is not a word about aviation weapons. Either they have decided to make aviation "nuclear-free," which is doubtful, or else they have simply "forgotten" to mention it. I hope that the misunderstanding is cleared up, and another 5,000 weapons minimum are added to the number of 6,000-7,000. That means that it will be a question of a 50-percent reduction, and this is realistic. The indicator of two-thirds only relates to missile warheads.

[Guk] In any event radical reductions are imminent. Which of the sides will find itself in the more favorable position in the end?

[Savelyev] The volumes of the scheduled reductions are mesmerizing many people. But the security of a state is determined not so much by the number of strategic forces as by their structure and quality. Neither Russia nor the United States will obtain unilateral advantages from the scheduled reductions. But they, and with them the whole world, will win something more: Strategic stability will be strengthened following the transition from multiple-charge to single-charge ICBM's. And to my mind, the most important result of the agreement is that strategic parity is being established, no longer at the level of USSR-United States, but at the level of Russia-United States.

[Guk] The former leadership of the USSR Ministry of Defense always categorically rejected the elimination of the SS-18. It must have had some reason for this?

[Savelyev] There were reasons. The prevailing viewpoint was that, the more weapons we had that struck fear into Americans' hearts, the better for our security.

[Guk] Why was there a need for us to put forward reciprocal proposals on the elimination of strategic weapons ahead of schedule ourselves? After all, the reductions are a heavy burden on our economy as it is.

[Savelyev] Evidently at the moment we cannot get away from stereotypes that say that every more or less significant action must without fail be timed to coincide with a big date—in this case the year 2000. Nevertheless, to my mind, insofar as we are able, we should relieve the load on the economy and the state budget instead of overstraining them.

[Guk] All the indications are that the ABM Treaty has been safely forgotten, and both sides are talking about a global system for defense against limited nuclear strikes. Is such a development of events better or worse for us?

[Savelyev] The Russian side has not yet renounced the ABM Treaty. And at the same time Moscow is involved in the creation of a joint global defense system. These things are mutually exclusive. Sooner or later a choice will have to be made. And, as I understand it, the global system for defense against a nuclear attack is preferable for Russia as compared with the 20-year-old ABM restrictions elaborated during the Cold War. The ABM Treaty will not realistically protect the country and a warning system, even a joint one, will not do so either. We need realistic means of defense against a potential threat.

Military Implements INF Treaty Conditions

OW1806102492 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by A. Ostrovskiy video; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] It is symbolic that the first official visit by the Russian president to the United States of America coincides with what appears to us to be another important date. Our military correspondent, Aleksandr Ostrovskiy, tells us about it. [video shows a convoy of trucks carrying missiles, helicopters flying cover, cranes unloading missiles, explosives being positioned, and detonations]

[Begin video recording] [Ostrovskiy] It is the fourth anniversary since the treaty between the USSR and the United States on eliminating intermediate and short-range missiles came into force and laid the foundation for real disarmament. In a year and a half, short-range missiles and their launching equipment have been eliminated. The funds for their destruction came from the sale of metal from auto chassis and the missile cannisters. Incidentally, through stupidity by the leadership of the country, one cannot say otherwise, at the same time they also destroyed the unique operational-tactical OTR-23 Oka, known in the United States as the SS-23. The Oka, which has a range of up to 400 km, did not come under the terms of the treaty. [video cuts to show Ostrovskiy interviewing Colonel V.B. Leshchenko, chief of the center for ensuring the implementation of the treaty]

Why is there a need for your center if the missiles have been destroyed?

[Leshchenko] In accordance with the INF Treaty, verifiable objects specified in the memorandum are subject to inspection until the year 2001. One of the tasks of the center is to maintain the verifiable objects in a constant state of readiness for inspection activities by U.S. inspection groups. [video shows document listing quantities of military weapons by military districts and regions]

At present, our basic task is the preparation of ground troops to fulfill the treaty on the reduction of conventional armed forces. With the disintegration of the USSR, it seems to me to be necessary to review the legal basis of acceptance by the newly formed independent states of U.S. inspection groups monitoring the implementation of the treaty on objects in their territory. For now, Russia is bearing the brunt of the costs. [video cuts to show a group of soldiers in formation, soldiers placing charges on top of missiles, and detonations]

[Ostrovskiy] It remains to be added that out of 41 verifiable objects, 26 are on the territory of near-neighbor states such as the Ukraine, Byelarus, the Baltic countries, and Central Asia. The U.S. inspection group is arriving today to verify the objects, and accordingly, their travel is paid for by Russia. [end recording]

I will add that a conference on the implementation of international treaties on disarmament is opening at the Russian Ground Forces main headquarters.

Unarmed Soldiers 'Guard' Missiles at Air Base

PM1706142392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Video report by A. Anufrikov from Bryansk airport: from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Anufrikov over scene of airport buildings] Only a month ago there was a military aviation unit stationed here. You get the impression that it retreated in the face of an enemy onslaught. But it was the local inhabitants, not the enemy, who got all the spoils of war.

At night the most enterprising people are taking away the doors, the windows in their frames, they are removing slates from the roofs, and even, with the help of cranes, stealing the tanks used to store aviation petroleum. It would not take much for them to start taking the excellent take-off and landing strip to pieces. Following the division of the Army, this unit was urgently transferred from Russia to Byelarus. Of all the servicemen, only two soldiers remain. Their duty is—and listen carefully—to guard missiles.

[Anufrikov turns to the two soldiers] So what do you do here?

[Unidentified soldier] We guard the missiles.

[Anufrikov] How do you guard them? Do you have any weapons?

[Soldier] No, we do not have any weapons here.

[Anufrikov] So how can you guard the missiles then?

[Soldier] We just do.

[Anufrikov] I will not begin to judge how dangerous these weapons, ingenuously camouflaged as steam heaters, are. But they could certainly heat things up to the point of explosion in the hot spots of the former Union. [video shows nearly deserted installation, remains of building, runway, missiles, soldiers]

Nagorno-Karabakh Preliminary Meeting Resumes

Minsk Conference Previewed

OW1606141592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It has become known to IF [INTERFAX] that the precise date for the CSCE conference in Minsk on Nagorno-Karabakh is to be set in Rome where a preliminary meeting of the Minsk CSCE group has resumed and is expected to continue till Thursday [18 June].

The first stage of the Rome meeting was held June 1-5 and is said to have yielded desired compromises between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Earlier the CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh was expected to be held in Minsk June 23. So far the date remains unchanged, but a high-ranking official of the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry has told our correspondent that the Minsk conference may be put off. "That will depend on the work in Rome", he said.

Conference Date Set

LD1806195692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Minsk June 18 TASS—"We are doing everything possible to create the necessary conditions for an international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk," Byelarusian Parliamentary Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich said at a news conference on Thursday [18 June].

The conference opening on June 25 will be attended by delegations from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Byelarus, Italy, the United States, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, France and Turkey.

Meanwhile, the participants in the peace talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in Rome decided to send Italian diplomat Mario Rafaelli to Nagorno-Karabakh to settle issues concerning the participation of representatives of Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in the conference.

Earlier in the day, France said it will urge the U.N. Security Council to consider the possibility of sending U.N. observers to Nagorno-Karabakh. The announcement was made after French President Francois Mitterrand's talks with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Mitterrand called for solving the conflict in accordance with CSCE principles.

Meeting on 'Brink of Collapse'

PM1906134192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Sychev: "Rome Meeting on Karabakh on the Brink of Collapse"]

[Text] The Rome emergency conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, in which 11 CSCE states are participating, is on the brink of collapse.

The conference, which, according to the CSCE mandate, was supposed to curb the escalation of tension in the region and prepare the ground for an international conference in Minsk on 23 June, has run into the impossibility of reconciling the positions of Armenia and Azerbaijan. In particular, Yerevan is insisting that the question of the future legal status of Karabakh should be discussed after the peacekeeping and cease-fire maintenance forces have been sent there. According to Baku, it is first necessary to define the status of the region, which only the Minsk conference is entitled to do, and then embark on peace talks.

However, despite the gulf between the warring sides' positions, the adversaries have taken some conciliatory steps. Both delegations, for example, agree that there is a need to reach an accord on a cease-fire on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, and the two republics' defense ministers are to hold the talks in Kazakhskiy Rayon in Azerbaijan.

No one would appear to have any objection to the proposal on a general cease-fire by 23 June, the day the Minsk conference starts, although the date of it is in doubt. For instance, the U.S. delegation suggested 30 June as an alternative date for the opening of this international forum. Washington was supported by Russia in this matter.

The problem of Nagorno-Karabakh and the vigorous military action begun there by Azerbaijan on 12 June were the main topic of the talks between French President F. Mitterrand and Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan.

The REUTER agency reports that the French president promised to give his assistance in settling the conflict and gave French Foreign Minister R. Dumas instructions to study the Armenian initiative on the discussion of the Karabakh problem at the UN Security Council and the immediate dispatch of around 300 observers to Karabakh. However, he noted that the CSCE remains the most suitable organization for conducting peace talks.

Agreement 'Impossible'

LD2006154492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] At the meeting in Rome on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh it turned out to be impossible to agree upon the conditions of participation by the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations in the upcoming international conference in Minsk. Representatives of both republics voiced sharp criticisms about each other's address and once again demonstrated their absolute intransigence.

Minsk Date 'Unreal'

OW2206132792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reliable sources, the CSCE's Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, scheduled for June 23, will not take place. "In Rome it became clear that this date was unreal," said a Russian expert in the Trans-Caucasian region.

In Rome, at the second preliminary and extraordinary meeting of the CSCE's Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan had "diametrically opposed" positions. This explains why the date of the Minsk conference was not coordinated, said the Russian expert.

He also expressed hope that the date of the Minsk conference will be agreed upon during the third round of the Rome meeting which will resume its work on June 20. He believes that the Minsk conference may be convened on June 30 or July 15.

To ensure that the Minsk conference be held, the Russian and American delegations to the Rome meeting made a joint proposal that this conference have two rounds. The first one would mean the opening of the conference as such and the second one—the beginning of its practical work. The second round might begin after an interval and only on the condition that Armenia and Azerbaijan smooth-out their contradictions. The Russian expert said he did not rule out that this particular proposal will be used as the guideline.

Talks Suspended

TA2106054292 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] It has been announced that no results were reached in talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia held in Rome under CSCE auspices. The meeting—in which 11 CSCE countries, including Turkey, participated in addition to Azerbaijan and Armenia—has been suspended. It is reported that, nevertheless, possibilities for the resumption of the talks are very high.

The Azerbaijani and Armenian delegations participating in the meeting accused each other with driving the talks to an impasse. In a statement, (Nadir Nesiyev), the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the talks, said that the Armenian side had blocked any progress in the meeting by insisting in its territorial claims on Karabakh. (Nesiyev) added that the Azerbaijani delegation is willing to return to Rome to resume the talks after going to Baku to receive the necessary instructions from the government.

Christian Ter-Petrosyan, the head of the Armenian delegation to the talks, on the other hand, said that Turkey and Azerbaijan have stalled the meeting by opposing the cease-fire in Karabakh proposed by Russia.

The meeting in Rome was held in preparation for the peace conference to be held in Minsk under CSCE auspices.

Chairman Comments

PM1906132792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Sychev: "The War in Karabakh Reduces to a Minimum the Chances of a Settlement of the Conflict"]

[Text] Azerbaijan has embarked on large-scale military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh and has captured more than 10 Armenian settlements. The endless battles have flared up with renewed force. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has entered a new phase.

"No changes achieved by force can lead to harmony and a long-term solution of the problem," Mario Raffaeli, chairman of the emergency conference of 11 CSCE states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Byelarus, United States, France, FRG, Italy, Turkey, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia), the second round of which is taking place in Rome, said in connection with the exacerbation of the situation in Karabakh.

It has to be said that as a result of the first round, held at the beginning of June, the conference participants appeared to have succeeded in taking a significant step toward a peaceful solution of the conflict. Despite the fact that no delegation of Karabakh Armenians came to Rome. The possibility emerged in Rome of the achievement of a consensus on very complex issues: Karabakh self-defense forces (the Armenian delegation obtained some powers from Stepanakert on this score) will have to leave Lachin and quit the corridor linking Karabakh and Armenia, which is to be demilitarized and monitored by CSCE observers. Given the Armenian side's recognition of Azerbaijani sovereignty over the territory where the corridor lies, freedom of movement through it should be preserved.

The Rome meeting's intention is that the crisis should effectively revert to its pre-Shusha and Lachin state and that favorable conditions should be created for holding an international CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk. The convening of the meeting in Rome was also dictated by the need to immediately begin at least some kind of dialogue between the opposing sides, who have been viewing the world through a gunsight for four years now.

Basically the second round had one problem to sort out—the future of Shusha, a center of strategic importance for Karabakh. This required a delegation of Karabakh Armenians, who again refused to come to Rome. What allegedly prevented them from doing so before was the elections; this time it was the dangerous situation in

the republic. However, in fact, there is every reason to believe that Stepanakert, which has been declared the capital of the sovereign republic, does not like being given the same observer status as the Azerbaijani community of Karabakh.

Is it demonstrating to the world community Karabakh's independence? Is it endeavoring to secure an enhanced status for the delegation and, consequently, indirect recognition of its fragile sovereignty? Be that as it may, the chance of earning the first diplomatic points in the international arena has been missed, and, most important of all, it seems that time has been lost. The Rome meeting could end up with nothing. The Armenian delegation in Rome said that it would withdraw from the peace talks unless hostilities ceased immediately. Moreover, as many Western diplomats, and Armenians as well, point out, the conference in Minsk may not take place.

It all now depends on the development of events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. To all appearances, a dangerous and senseless quest for revenge has begun there.

Ten or so Armenian settlements in the east and southeast of Karabakh have been captured by the Azerbaijani armed forces. According to reports, there is heavy fighting on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Yerevan is expecting attacks by Azerbaijani fighters, who have allegedly tried to break through to Nakhichevan in order to establish a transport corridor similar to the Karabakh one. It is possible that the sides are inflaming the situation in order to push the world community into making a choice and taking sides. The emotions that grip Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Karabakh could make them take reckless action.

The possible result of this is clear—full-scale war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Russian Foreign Ministry acknowledged this prospect for the first time in its statement. The official declaration of war is a very likely step that can be expected from both Yerevan and Baku.

In that event, Russia would be at the greatest disadvantage. On the one hand, it has embarked on a mediation mission; on the other hand, it is committed to giving every support to any of the pact participants in the event of aggression against that participant—commitments made under the Treaty on Collective Security, also signed by Kazakhstan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Will it be able to confine itself to calls for peace in these conditions? Will not the treaty itself then be in jeopardy?

I am not prepared to predict what solution will be chosen, but Russia is obviously already feeling hot and bothered as a result of the ethnic conflicts raging in direct proximity to its borders. This is indicated by the statement by Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov on South Ossetia.

This signal can be regarded as a warning—Moscow is seriously concerned about Russia's security and it has no significant arguments left in favor of reconciliation, apart from force. The statement, as is known, was not accompanied by comment from Khasbulatov, so it can be interpreted in that way.

Finally, another interesting aspect to the affair—Turkey. Its interference in the conflict was first mentioned at the time of the fall of Lachin and Shusha.

However, hypothetical scenarios of future events remain for the moment in the realm of more or less likely futurological theory. One thing that is not in doubt is that the warring sides are in a vicious circle from which they will not escape without an immediate cease-fire and the start of constructive talks.

'SOS Karabakh' From Prague To Aid Region

PM2206152192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by V. Lyubovtsev and V. Lebedev, from Prague]

[Text] An ambulance aircraft is standing on the tarmac at Prague's Ruzyne Airport. These crates and large and small boxes contain quintessential humanitarian aid which is so badly needed at many of the flashpoints of the former USSR. It includes medical equipment and apparatus, medicines, cotton, wool, and bandages destined for hospitals and maternity homes in Nagorno-Karabakh, intended for the civilian population which always suffers most as a result of war.

The SOS was sounded three weeks ago by the popular Czechoslovak newspaper LIDOVE NOVINY, which organized a collection medicines and money to purchase medicines and to pay for the flight of this special aircraft. The title of the campaign was "SOS Karabakh."

We did not expect such a massive response to the newspaper's appeal, journalist Jaromir Stetina told me.

Many of our hospital and polyclinics contributed part of their stock of medicines and bandages. The editorial office telephone never stopped ringing and people brought in money, some 50 or 100 korunas, some several thousands from their personal savings. As a result, the required sum of 3 million korunas was collected.

Deputy Foreign Ministers Meet on Moldova Issue

LD2206130792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau June 22 TASS—Deputy foreign ministers of Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine held talks in Chisinau on Monday [22 June].

The deputy ministers discussed a peaceful solution to the military conflict in the Dniester region of Moldova, according to the republican foreign ministry. They also prepared a forthcoming meeting of foreign ministers of Moldova, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.

The four ministers will meet in Istanbul in the near future, according to Moldovan Foreign Minister Nikolae Tiu. They will then meet again in Chisinau together with the defence ministers of the four countries to discuss an immediate withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from the Moldovan territory.

Iranian Aircraft Violates Azerbaijani Airspace

LD2006170792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The FAX news agency of the Transcaucasus Military District has revealed that Azerbaijan's airspace is being violated more often by Iranian fighters. Air defense units of the Russian forces in the Trancaucasus have been ordered not to take any action unless the combat aircraft attempt to cross the Greater Caucasus Range [Russian border with Georgia and Azerbaijan].

Iranian Ambassador on Ties With CIS, Russia

MK1606152192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 4

[Interview with Iranian Ambassador to Russia Nematollah Izadi by IMA-PRESS correspondents Rafis Abazov and Aleksey Vasilivetskiy under the "Iran" rubric; place and date not given: "'The Iranian People Made Their Choice More Than 1,000 Years Ago. Nematollah Izadi, Iranian Ambassador to Russia, Speaks to IMA-PRESS Correspondents"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [IMA-PRESS] How are relations developing between Iran and the CIS?

[Izadi] During the time of the USSR, we had good relations with it. It was no coincidence that Ayatollah Khomeyni at one time sent Mikhail Gorbachev a letter asking him to study carefully the ideas of the Iranian revolution. Now that the Soviet Union is no more, we are establishing contacts with the republics which emerged from the breakup. We have opened embassies in some of them and talks are under way in others with a view to doing the same.

[IMA-PRESS] The Islamic Revival Party is strong in Tajikistan and there are similar organizations in a number of other CIS states. What view do you take of their activity?

[Izadi] I think that this is the republics' internal affair. Iran develops its relations with various countries without asking why they don't have particular parties or why they have various other parties. We do not maintain and will not maintain relations directly with parties in the Commonwealth's sovereign republics.

[IMA-PRESS] There is a view that Turkey and Iran are fighting for influence in the CIS....

[Izadi] In my view, this is an exaggeration on the part of journalists. It is quite natural for different countries—Iran, the United States, or Pakistan, say—to strive to defend their own interests in various regions. However, I would not say that there is rivalry between us and Turkey.

[IMA-PRESS] Do you think that Iran's mediation mission in the Karabakh conflict still has a chance of success after recent events in the Transcaucasus?

[Izadi] From the outset, Tehran realized that any mission of this kind is very difficult. Nevertheless, we cannot allow this conflict to carry on right next to our borders. We are quite determined to continue our mission until it comes to a successful conclusion. We are sure that the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan also want to see an end to the bloodshed. As for the Armenian side's seizure of a number of Azerbaijani population centers, we have already lodged an official protest with regard to this matter.

[IMA-PRESS] In your view, what are the prospects for the development of Russian-Iranian cooperation?

[Izadi] We think that our relations with Russia should be better than they are at present. There is tremendous potential for economic partnership in our country. We do, after all, share a border with Russia in the Caspian. Iran allocates a special role to Russia in the organization of Caspian states. We are also strengthening our political contacts. For instance, during Iran's aforementioned mediation mission in Karabakh, we turned to Russia for help. Russia's representative attended the talks in Tehran between the warring parties.

The embassy where we are now talking is doing everything it can to ensure that relations between our countries constantly grow stronger. We are sure that the Russian leadership wants the same.

Shaposhnikov Outlines Unified Forces Tasks

LD1906192592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Correspondent S. Slipchenko video report; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondent has just returned from a press conference given by Marshal Shaposhnikov.

[Slipchenko] The trip by the commander in chief of the CIS strategic forces to the states of Central Asia was planned a long time ago. Today it became clear that prior to the meeting of CIS leaders on 6 July, military issues must be agreed with the leaders of the countries. This is how Marshal Shaposhnikov sees the tasks of the unified forces.

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording] We have begun to build our structure not according to any person, not according to any personality, but according to the tasks which the High Command may face. Thus the main tasks which appeared to us are: First, a single control and a centralized command of the strategic forces. The second, in view of the fact that military doctrines are now being drawn up, consists of obtaining maximum agreement on all the important basic questions which concern military doctrine and reform in the armed forces. The third task; we do not rule out that under the conditions of the existence of the CIS, military conflicts about the borders of the former Union may take place. At the same time I have in mind that several formations and units from all the Commonwealth states that have signed the Collective Security Treaty will be delegated to the high command in order to fulfil these functions. [end recording]

[Slipchenko] Seventy CIS treaties have been signed so far. We will wait for more. [video shows Shaposhnikov seated at table talking to journalists]

Armed Forces Chief on Planned Tour, Meetings

LD1906190692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1715 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jun—The visit to CIS capitals by Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS united armed forces, which is scheduled to begin next Thursday [25 June], will have "a Central Asian slant." The Air Force marshal plans to meet the presidents and defense ministers of Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The trip will take place within the framework of preparations for a regular summit meeting of the Commonwealth leaders to be held in Moscow on 6 July.

Among the main tasks the marshal has set himself is to revise the sphere of competence and functions of the chief command of the CIS united armed forces with the collective security treaty being in force. He stated this at a meeting with journalists today. In addition, the commander in chief intends to familiarize the heads of state with the documents that were adopted on 26 May at a meeting of the Council of CIS defense ministers, and which were checked later by the chief command.

Answering questions from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov expressed regret at Ukraine's unwillingness to take part in the Commonweath's collective security system. The position of that state regarding strategic nuclear weapons also appears to the commander in chief to be insufficiently constructive. There are signs that Ukraine wants to become a nuclear power, he said. It would do better to say so openly, and the world community then will be able to react adequately, the marshal considers.

In general, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov took a positive view of the position of Byelarus in the sphere of defense, while noting that the question of its participation in the collective security system reamins open, though it has agreed to bilateral cooperation with Russia. As for Kazakhstan, "full concensus," as Shaposhnikov said, has been achieved with President Nazarbayev on defense.

The commander in chief's attitude to the Black Sea Fleet amounts to this: Its ships and shore infrastructure are a component of the Commonwealth's strategic forces, with the exception of that part which will become the property of Ukraine. How that share will be determined is for Russia and Ukraine to decide at the talks between Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk which begin next week at Dagomys in southern Russia.

At the request of the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov gave his opinion of the agreements on strategic armaments reached at the Russian-U.S. summit in Washington. "We have time to prepare an agreement that will develop the accords that have been achieved between the presidents of Russia and the United States—possibly making adjustments, and possibly correcting a few things regarding timing and weapon types—but I want to say that at the present time there is no alternative to disarmament," the commander in chief of the joint armed forces of the CIS noted.

Shaposhnikov on Ukraine Nuclear Power Ambitions

LD2006112292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth's armed forces, expressed regret at Ukraine's unwillingness to participate in the CIS collective security system at a meeting with journalists on Friday [19 June]. The commander in chief views this state's stand on strategic nuclear weapons as not constructive enough, ITAR-TASS reports. Signs are emerging that Ukraine is striving to become a nuclear power, he stated. In the marshal's view, Kiev ought to announce such a decision openly, so that the world community may react in an adequate way.

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov's stand on the Black Sea Fleet is that the ships and shore facilities are a component of the Commonwealth's strategic forces, with the exception of the part to be transferred to Ukraine. It is for Ukraine and Russia to decide how to determine what proportion this is at the talks between Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk, which begin in Dagomys next week, Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

Summit To Discuss Army General Staff Structure

LD2206090992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0815 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun— The establishment of a manning structure for the CIS Armed Forces General Staff is one of the important issues to be discussed by the Commonwealth's Council of Heads of State when it assembles in Moscow on 6 July, ITAR-TASS was told today by Colonel General Boris Pyankov, deputy commander in chief of the CIS armed forces. In his opinion the General Staff should have a personnel strength of about 300. "The council will also discuss how the cost of maintaining the staff's personnel should be divided among the CIS states," he said. "Each state's share looks likely to be about 10 percent." Pyankov stressed that "These figures are not definitive and are currently being decided upon by the High Command and Commonwealth defense ministers. They will be finalized during the council meeting."

Agreement on Black Sea Fleet Composition

LD1906161692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The organization of the Black Sea Fleet with new recruits will take place on the basis of 50 percent from Ukraine and 50 percent from the other republics of the CIS. An agreement on this was reached today in Sevastopol during a meeting between Feliks Kuznetsov, first deputy commander of the Naval Forces of the Commonwealth, and Ivan Bizhan, first deputy minister of defense of Ukraine. Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and Boris Kozhin, commander of the Naval Forces of the Ukraine, also took part in the meeting.

According to the agreement, some of the servicemen from Russia, following the completion of their training in Sevastopol, will be posted to other fleets to continue their service. The NEGA agency reports that servicemen called up from Ukraine will return to the Black Sea Fleet.

Baltic Council Meeting Reportedly Canceled

OW1906183092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1827 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting of the Baltic Council scheduled for next week has been canceled, Lithuanian parliamentary press secretary Audrius Azubalis told a news briefing in Vilnius. He did not indicate reasons for the decision.

Baltic States To Demand Russian Army Withdrawal

LD2206094992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, June 22 TASS—The demand that the army be moved out of the Baltic States and the encouragement of this withdrawal will be the main subject of discussion at a meeting of the Baltic States' Council in Tallinn on June 26, Lithuanian parliament Chief Vytautas Landsbergis said appearing on the republican television on Sunday [21 June] evening.

Landsbergis said documents due to be signed at the meeting are being prepared under an agreement by the leaders of all three Baltic States' parliaments. The key document among them should be an appeal to the 'big nine' which, according to Landsbergis, will discuss problems of economic and political life in Europe and also aid to Russia at its next meeting in Munich.

Landsbergis added that during his stay in Rio de Janeiro German Chancellor Helmut Khol spoke about the intention to raise the issue of the Baltic States' security and the mandatory withdrawal of the Army from their territory at the group of nine states' meeting.

Landsbergis devoted much attention to the theme which he formulated as "the Russian Army beyond Russia's boundaries". Speaking about the Army's actions and role in Moldova and Georgia and also about "repeated statements that Russia will defend Russians in other countries", he described them as "very dangerous". Moreover, he drew historical parallels between this situation and "the conduct of Nazi Germany which at one time also stated that it would defend each German in each country."

"The sooner the Army is moved out, the more useful this will be for Russians residing in Lithuania," Landsbergis said motivating his conclusion by the prediction that "Russians can begin to be identified with this Army", which, he said, "creates tension, conflicts and covertly distributes weapons" in Lithuania.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Jun

LD2006063292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0623 GMT 20 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 20 TASS—"The results of the Russian president's visit to Washington, the numerous agreements signed by him and the brilliant speech in the U.S. Congress have undoubtedly become one of major events of 1992 and will make a profound impact on further development of international relations," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

The visit remains the principal topic for all morning editions of the Moscow-based newspapers today. The press highlights estimates of the agreement signed by the presidents of Russia and the United States on a new, far-reaching reduction in nuclear arms.

"The president of Russia has won people's hearts in America, he is yet to captivate Russia. For certain, ratification of the documents signed in Washington will not be automatic," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA describes Yeltsin's visit as a "diplomacy of applause", accusing Yeltsin of betraying the national interests of his country. The newspaper expressed its hope that the accord on an unprecented reduction in nuclear arms will not be ratified by the Russian parliament.

"The entire strategy and tactics of the visit were tailor-made towards receiving 24 billion U.S. dollars as credits and investments," PRAVDA believes. "But the price of disarmament proved obviously incommensurate with the dividends which we received." Yeltsin did not secure any real assistance from the U.S., the newspaper maintains. PRAVDA also views the visit as a historic one "because it drew the line under the era of nuclear missile parity which lasted about a quarter of a century".

The newspaper estimates that as a result of the concluded agreement "the most valuable component of the Soviet nuclear potential is being removed. The suggested alternative—participation in a global defence system—is so far utterly vague. Even the phenomental concessions of Gorbachev's foreign policy pale beside such a disarmament-minded disrobing".

The planned reductions in nuclear arsenals would require multibillion expenditures, says another article in PRAVDA. It may so happen that all the loans and credits that are being received from the West would have to be used for Russia's own disarmament". [quotation marks as received]

Russian Nuclear Power Industry Minister Viktor Mikhailov emphasised in a PRAVDA interview that it would "take not just one decade and not just ten billion roubles" to implement the new arms reduction agreement. He did not rule out the possibility of international cooperation in this respect with the attraction of foreign funds.

A more weighed evaluation of the concluded agreement is given in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR). Examining the question of guarantees for Russia's security, the newspaper is of the opinion that a renunciation of attempts to maintain nuclear parity with the United States would be a boon to Russia but only under certain conditions.

"At present the rapid diminution of the military factor in ensuring Russia's security is still not accompanied by any adequate increase in other factors, say, economic or social ones", the newspaper notes. Yeltsin seeks to activate an economic factor and is "close to success" in an attempt to convince the Americans of the need to give assistance to Russia, the newspaper points out.

But "so far the situation in Russia by no means promotes large-scale economic cooperation with other countries. This means that the state of things concerning the economic component of security is not brilliant. The state of affairs regarding the socio-political stability is still worse", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA remarks.

Newspapers devote a large number of articles to the sorrowful date—June 22—the 51st anniversary of Nazi Germany's attack on the Soviet Union. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA prepared a special four-page retro-issue, carrying dispatches by the newspaper's prominent frontline correspondents of the war years.

The press devotes much space to the subject of the picketing of the Ostankino television centre and of the Gorbachev Foundation building in Moscow by the opposition.

PRAVDA's opinion is that the slogans of the oppositional Trudovaya Moskva are not to the credit of this movement.

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, in a statement published in PRAVDA, points to the unlawfulness of yet another meeting contemplated by the Trudovaya Moskva near the television centre for June 22 and warns that the government of the city "reserves the right to take the necessary measures" to prevent it.

A new meeting at Ostankino, in the opinion of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA may be attended by rather a large number of people, and it seems that "the two sides are ready to resort to tough measures".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA, which note that the Ostankino has been picketed for the tenth day now, report the picketeers' determination to "carry on the struggle" and that the oppositional Rossiiskoye Edintstvo (Russian Unity) parliamentary bloc has expressed solidarity with the Trudovaya Moskva's tug of war with the television.

Academician Leonid Ovalkin, director of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in an article published in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, calls for taking into account Japan's experience in building a thriving economy and apply it for the elaboration of a well thought-out economic policy of the Russian Government.

International Affairs

More on Yeltsin, Bush Washington Visit

Agenda of Visit Noted

924C1725A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 25, 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Correspondent Edgar Cheporov report: "Boris Yeltsin's Difficult Mission"]

[Text] New York—Boris Yeltsin is now holding his first—according to the full program—meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

They are at this time discussing arms reduction issues. Experts maintain that a steep reduction in the strategic nuclear arsenal—to 4,700 warheads on either side—is practicable. Many problems of relations of the two powers traditional for summit meetings are being discussed also. But the main one, about which no one is in any doubt, should be the subject of economic cooperation and American aid to Russia. A problem evoking contradictory opinions in the United States.

On the very eve of the summit, I received from Congressman D. Nagle, the text of his speech at the University of Iowa together with the announcement of the formation of a coalition "representing many national organizations and millions of Americans." The congressman declares that the United States should support Russia and the other former Soviet republics in their movement toward reforms and that the denial of such support would be a "historic mistake." Why has this politician embarked on this action? The point is that in recent weeks, increasingly great doubt has been cast in the American corridors of power on the administration's decision to allocate billions of dollars in aid for Russia. The argument runs: We ourselves have a load of outstanding problems and do not have the money for our own needs. The argument of David Nagle and his supporters is that expenditure on the establishment of democracy in Russia and the creation of a market economy there today will enable America to cut military spending, begin to develop the boundless Russian market and, consequently, create millions of jobs in the United States. Nonetheless, it is not public money but wide-ranging investments of private capital which are capable of transforming our economy.

America knows full well that Russia does not, as yet, have propitious conditions for Western business and that it is hard for American business to operate here. However, Washington itself has done almost nothing thus far to attract private U.S. capital for Russia. A significant step in this direction will finally be taken, it is believed, at the meeting now being held here—George Bush and Boris Yeltsin will sign an agreement on tax incentives for American companies investing their capital in Russia. These companies will receive, inter alia, refunds from the amounts they pay to the U.S. tax department. The creation in Russia of legal and economic safeguards for Western business, Dwayne Andreas, a most prominent representative of the U.S. business world, believes, would in the first 18 months attract $100 billion of private business, $200 billion in the same subsequent period, and $400 billion at the third stage.

Is the creation of the conditions for such investments possible? Is a stabilization of the Russian economy practicable? G. Bush and his administration are hearing absolutely opposite opinions. The CIA has just released a report to the effect that economic upheavals face Russia and the other countries of the CIS and that the process of emergence from the crisis "will take a decade at best." A number of political scientists have viewed the recent changes in the top echelons of the Russian Government as "Boris Yeltsin's retreat to positions of a command economy." However, Robert Strauss, ambassador of the United States in Moscow and a most experienced businessman and politician, considers this reshuffle nothing more than "concessions intended to maintain the policy of reforms."

Boris Yeltsin's mission is to set forth, justify, and "defend" this policy before his Washington partners. Boris Yeltsin rejects the role of suppliant. Nor will America ever come to regard Russia in the way of a benefactor. The interests of America and Russia cannot coincide fully, just as those of America and Japan or Germany, say, do not coincide. However, America and Russia are no longer enemies, and for this reason both powers are even in a difficult situation of seeking a common, constructive language.

Russia Joins World Bank

LD1606223692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2132 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Washington, 17 Jun—During the Russian president's official state visit to the United States, acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar signed the charter of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the charter of the International Development Association on 16 June. Russia has thereby officially joined the World Bank, a major international financial organization.

The same day, V. Lukin, Russian ambassador to the United States, signed the "Washington Convention" on the principles of settling international investment disputes. This convention, as well as the Russian-American accord on reciprocal promotion and protection of investments, which is being prepared, will create reliable premises for improving conditions for American capital investments in Russia's economy.

Space Cooperation Agreement Issued

LD1806175292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1002 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Cooperation in Peaceful Space Research and Exploitation"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] The Russian Federation and the United States of America, henceforth known as the parties,

taking account of the role of these two states in the peaceful research into and exploitation of space;

desiring to put the results of space research and exploitation to use for the benefit of the peoples of the two states;

taking account of the parties' mutual interest in opportunities for the commercial use of space technologies in the common interest;

taking cognizance of the provisions of the treaty on principles for the activity of states researching and exploiting space, including the Moon and other heavenly bodies, and other multilateral agreements on space research and exploitation in which both states are participants;

expressing their satisfaction with the results of cooperation achieved in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics, Earth sciences, space biology and medicine, research into the Solar System and the physics of the relationship between the Sun and Earth and their desire to continue and expand cooperation in these and other fields,

have agreed on the following:

Article I

The parties cooperate through their executive organizations in the fields of the science of space, space research, the application of space equipment and space technologies for civil purposes on the basis of equal rights, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Cooperation may include projects for carrying out manned and unmanned spaceflights, ground-based work and experiments and other kinds of activity in fields such as:

—monitoring the Earth's environment from space;

—carrying out flights by the Mir station and the Shuttle, using Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts;

—ensuring the safety of space flights;

—space biology and medicine;

—feasibility studies for joint work in other fields, such as researching Mars.

Article II

For the purposes of developing and implementing cooperation as envisaged by Article I of the present agreement, the parties hereby designate as their lead executive organizations the Russian Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, respectively, for the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

Should they deem it necessary, the parties may designate additional executive organizations in order to promote the realization of specific activities in the fields enumerated in Article 1 of the present agreement.

Each joint project may be the subject of a special written agreement between the designated executive organizations defining the nature and framework of the project, individual and several obligations of the designated executive organizations pertaining to the project, financial accords should such exist, and the procedure for protecting intellectual property in accordance with the provisions of the present agreement.

Article III

Joint work within the framework of the present agreement is to be carried out in accordance with the national laws and regulations of each of the parties and within the limits of existing funds.

Article IV

The parties will hold annual consultations on cooperation in civil space research and exploitation in order to provide government-level review machinery for the bilateral cooperation being implemented in accordance with the present agreement and to exchange views on various issues concerning the mastery of space. These consultations may also serve as the main channel for submitting proposals for new activities within the framework of the present agreement.

Article V

The present agreement is concluded without detriment to the cooperation of each of the parties with other states and international organizations.

Article VI

The parties ensure appropriate and effective protection of intellectual property created or granted within the framework of the present agreement and agreements concluded in accordance with Article II of the present agreement. Where these agreements provide for the distribution of rights to intellectual property, this is to be done in accordance with the appendix which forms an integral part of the present agreement. In as far as it is necessary and expedient, such agreements may contain diverse provisions for the protection and distribution of intellectual property.

Article VII

The present agreement comes into force from the date of signing by the parties and remains in force for five years. It may be extended for further five-year periods by means of the exchange of diplomatic notes. The validity of the present agreement may be cancelled by either party by means of sending six months written notification through diplomatic channels to the other party.

Effected in the city of Washington on 17 June 1992 in two copies in Russian and English, both of which texts have equal force.

Comments on Space Cooperation

PM1906160992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by A. Gerasimov]

[Text] [Gerasimov] The Russo-American space cooperation agreements are typified above all by each side's different degree of interest in them. I would recall that Presidents Yeltsin and Bush discussed the possibility of joint satellite launches, the use of the manned "Soyuz" spacecraft to rescue American astronauts during construction of the "Freedom" space station, and the organization of joint missions to the "Mir" station, where the shuttle could be docking in a couple of years' time. What is Russia's interest in these projects? First and foremost, such large-scale programs represent a source of funding for Russia's space-related enterprises, which have highly marketable intellectual potential but ran aground as soon as they tried to switch to the market. All the more so as, when it comes to this aspect of our relationship, Russia is the party selling high-tech (and therefore costly) products. Space is one of the few areas where Russia can talk to America as an equal. Even a complete lack of contact would not have a severe impact on our manned program, in the opinion of the crew currently working aboard "Mir."

[Cosmonaut] Forget "severe"—it won't have any impact at all.

[Gerasimov] The Americans are trying to save money by using Russian developments to make sure that their rather ambitious space programs don't get bogged down in Senate hearings that always accuse NASA of not treating the taxpayer with respect. The political aspect of such contacts is obvious—as the U.S. and Russian economies become increasingly intertwined there is less and less chance that the partners will go back to confrontation.]

Cheney Meets With Grachev

LD1906132792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington June 19 TASS—I am working together with Russian Defence Minister Grachev at ways of putting into effect the history-making reductions of long-range nuclear weapon arsenals, announced on June 16 by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin, U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney has stated. According to a statement of the U.S. Department of Defence, circulated here on Friday [17 June], it was the first visit of a Russian defence minister to the Pentagon.

When welcoming Grachev, Cheney praised the history-making agreement reached by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin, on a further radical reduction of the stockpiles of long-range missile warheads and the destruction of the remaining ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple independent warheads within the coming ten years. At the same time, Cheney said a treaty on arms control in this sphere remained to be concluded, and the reduction of the number of warheads is a long-term project.

The head of the Pentagon expressed satisfaction over the fact that both sides brought down considerably the level of stand-by alert of their armed forces. He also stressed that his meeting with General Grachev was evidence of the improvement of American-Russian relations, of progress in the sphere of security problems which are of much importance for both countries, as well as of the expansion of the existing military contacts. According to the Pentagon statement, Cheney and Grachev discussed ways of strengthening Russian-American relations in the sphere of defence.

Cooperation in Conversion Reached

LD1806173692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0916 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Joint Russian-U.S. Statement on Cooperation in the Sphere of Conversion"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The Russian Federation and the United States of America recognize that conversion of the defense industry is one of the key tasks of the period following the end of the Cold War, and is a prerequisite for the building of a democratic world. Both sides are aware of the difficulties connected with efforts to convert the defense industry. At the same time, the sides also realize that the successful freeing of resources not required for defense needs is in line with long-term economic interests and also with the interests of national defense of our peoples. In connection with this, the Russian Federation and the United States of America state their intention to devote priority attention to cooperation in the implementing of conversion of the defense industry.

Recognizing the important role of the private sector and of practical involvement of business quarters in resolving the complex task of conversion, the Russian Federation and the United States of America are forming the Russian-U.S. Committee on Conversion of the Defense Industry to promote conversion by

expanding trade and investment. This intergovernmental committee will be formed within the framework of the Russian-U.S. Committee for Promotion of Business Cooperation, and will have as its aim the promotion of information exchange and the encouragement of trade and investment, inter alia by way of development of ties between interested groups, expansion of information exchange concerning enterprises being converted, and improvement of conditions for commercial activities in both countries through identification and elimination of hindrances to expansion of trade and investment. The committee will inform the governments of the two countries on a regular basis about the results of its work, in order that they can adopt timely and effective measures to eliminate the hindrances to bilateral cooperation in the sphere of conversion.

To assist successful cooperation in the sphere of conversion, each of the sides intends to undertake a number of practical steps in the near future:

The Russian Federation intends to set up on its territory a favorable political, economic, legal, and administrative climate for American trade and investments, including: macroeconomic reforms, necessary for the introduction of ruble convertibility; the implementation of concomitant microeconomic reforms aimed at supporting the privatization and demonopolization of industry; the adoption of laws guaranteeing rights in the sphere of contracts and property; and the dissemination of internationally recognized standards regarding basic information concerning the entrepreneurial activity and finances of enterprises undergoing conversion.

The United States intends assisting the involvement of American entrepreneurs in the implementation of commercially viable projects in Russia, including joint ventures, by way of dispatching advisors on conversion matters on site for lengthy periods who would stimulate the involvement of American entrepreneurs in this process and would transfer know-how to local enterprise managers and directors; the creation in Russia of business centers with facilities for providing translations, and the education and training of personnel for American companies operating in Russia; the establishment in Washington of an information service on entrepreneurial activity in Russia which would provide for the setting up of contacts between business organizations in Russia and potential investors in the United States; the activation of a trade and development program, the corporation of private foreign capital investments and an export-import bank with the aim of creating incentives for investment by the American private sector in commercially viable conversion projects.

The Russian Federation and the United States of America proceed from the position that the cooperation forum Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] will serve as a means to remove the division of the "Cold War" period and to encourage conversion by way of assisting to remove obstacles in the path of trade in the sphere of high technology, providing assistance in the setting up in Russia and other new independent states of export control regimes, comparable with Cocom, and the elaboration of procedures ensuring the ultimate use for civilian purposes of sensitive goods and technologies causing common concern. Both sides agree that this process is based on their mutual resolve to adhere to world export control standards in the sphere of the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related technologies, missiles and missile technology, destabilizing conventional weapons, and also dual purpose goods and technologies.

The sides resolutely support the expansion of bilateral contacts in the military and military-industrial spheres and the activity of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in resolving the whole range of military issues with which the success of conversion is linked to a decisive degree, including issues of civilian control of the military sphere in a democratic society; of planning, budget, and purchases in the defense sphere under market economy conditions; the closure of facilities [obyekt] and their reprofiling; demobilization and retraining, and also social protection measures.

Defense System Statement Issued

LD1806143192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 18 Jun 92

["Joint Russian-American Statement on Global Defense System"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] The presidents continued discussion of the potential advantages of a global defense system against ballistic missiles and agreed that it is important to study the role of defense in protecting against limited ballistic missile strikes. Both presidents agreed that their two countries should work together with their allies and other interested states with the aim of elaborating a concept for such a system as part of a common strategy with regard to the proliferation of ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction. Such cooperation will be a tangible expression of the new relations which exist between Russia and the United States and will involve them in an important undertaking together with other countries of the world community.

The two presidents agreed on the need to start the elaboration of a concept of a global defense system without delay. With this aim they agreed to create a high-level group to study the following practical steps as a matter of priority:

—the potential for exchanging information in the sphere of early warning by way of setting up an early warning center;

—the potential for cooperation with participating states in the elaboration of the means and technologies for defense from ballistic missiles;

—the elaboration of a legal basis for cooperation, including new treaties and agreements, and possible amendments of existing treaties and agreements, necessary for the implementation of a global defense system.

Signed in Washington on 17 June 1992 in two copies—each in the Russian and English languages—both texts having equal force.

Gaydar Gives 'High Appraisal'

LD1806083792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Acting Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Yegor Gaydar gives a high appraisal to the accord in the field of economic cooperation reached during the first state visit of President Yeltsin of Russia to Washington. In an interview to RIA correspondents, he said it was a very significant agreement, of importance for creation of favorable conditions for bilateral trade and capital investment. Yegor Gaydar said that he attached special importance to the agreement on protection of capital investments. This document gives the go-ahead to investment of American capital in the Russian economy. Gaydar voiced the hope that on the basis of this agreement, Russian businessmen would be able, in the near future, to also invest their capital in implementation of various projects on the territory of the United States.

Grachev on Arms Cuts

PM1806192992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 1

[Captain First Rank V. Kuzar report: "Hopeful Prospects for Cooperation"]

[Excerpt] Washington, 18 Jun—[Passage omitted] How does the Russian defense minister assess the agreements reached in the sphere of security? I asked Army General P. Grachev, who is part of the Russian delegation, this question.

"What has been achieved in the military sphere is of enormous significance," he stressed. "Only dilettantes can claim that we are the losers or have made some kind of concessions to the United States during the talks. One or two hundred missiles mean nothing today. The main thing is that general security is being strengthened, the enemy image is disappearing, and an atmosphere of partnership and all-around cooperation is being created. The meetings and conversations held here in Washington have convinced me that the Americans genuinely want to help us."

The Russian defense minister also said that he had a meeting in the Pentagon with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. A whole series of problems was discussed there: Joint verification of the destruction of strategic offensive weapons, U.S. aid for the formation of storage bases for tactical nuclear weapons that have been withdrawn to Russia from the territories of other republics and are subject to destruction, and U.S. assistance in securing the release of Russian servicemen who are in captivity in Afghanistan. The discussion of a number of concrete measures in expanding cooperation in the military sphere was particularly significant. There is the exchange of delegations, including at soldier-sailor level, the creation of a joint military college with both Russian and American instructors, and joint exercises. Agreement was reached that the Russian defense minister will pay an official visit to the United States in the near future, and that all questions of cooperation in the military sphere will be discussed in more detail then. [Passage omitted]

Arms Reductions Reviewed

PM1906200992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jun 92 p 2

[Observer Aleksandr Golts "Topic of the Week" commentary: "Farewell to Arms?"]

[Text] It so happened that the Russian president's visit to the United States, during which unprecedented nuclear arms cuts were approved, fell on the eve of the anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War—probably the most poignant event in our history, which, as is well known, is not lacking in tragedies. This was a coincidence, of course. And it would not be merely essentially wrong, it would be downright blasphemous to seek some kind of parallel between the treaties once signed with Berlin and those sealed in Washington a few days ago. Still less do I intend to join the not very harmonious but extremely noisy chorus of those who hasten to accuse B. Yeltsin of all but conniving with the Americans.

The point lies elsewhere. Willy-nilly you ask yourself what the guarantees of our security consist of today, and whether it is possible to reliably ensure our security by pursuing disarmament alone. The bitterness engendered by the defeats of the "accursed" year of 1941 appears to be genetically transmissible. It was these defeats which gave us an idea which seemed axiomatic until quite recently—that our country was safe only as long as we were not inferior to anyone in the world in terms of military might.

You will agree that B. Yeltsin's actions in Washington do not fit in with this approach. He agreed to an accord which does not merely reduce the two countries' nuclear arsenals by a factor of three. In the opinion of most U.S. experts, this accord gives the United States certain advantages in the military sphere. "According to U.S. officials and arms control specialists," THE NEW YORK TIMES writes in this context, "the accord envisages the elimination of the Russian nuclear arms which present the greatest threat, while at the same time, it allows the United States to retain its most sophisticated missiles."

Here is the opinion of Dzh. Mendelson [name as transliterated], deputy director of the Arms Control Association: "On paper it seems that both sides are cutting their forces equally. However, in reality, the Russians are giving up the cornerstone of their arsenal—land-based multiple-warhead missiles, while we retain our positions regarding sea-launched ballistic missiles, in which we have superiority."

Speaking exclusively about the quantities of specific types of arms, this is indeed true.

However, if our politicians are farsighted, if their calculations are correct, and if they are confident that no one is planning to blackmail us with nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, still less attack us, then is it really worth devoting the last of our strength to maintaining military equilibrium with the richest country in the world?

Giving up attempts to maintain this parity could be a real boon for our country. However, in my opinion, only under very specific conditions. Today only lazy people do not say that a state's security is not maintained exclusively, or even largely, by military means. This is self-evident. Something else is causing concern: The rapid reduction of the military factor in ensuring Russia's security is still not being accompanied by anything like an equivalent reinforcement of other factors. Economic or social factors, for example.

Those who claim that the United States has today, and will have in the future, considerably stronger security guarantees than Russia are right. It is not a matter here of a few hundred extra warheads. It is a matter of the level of production and of the U.S. economy's level of integration into the world economy. It is precisely the interdependence of economies which ensures a situation where states, no matter how acute their differences, seek to avoid the large-scale use of military force (local and ethnic conflicts are a different matter).

Russia has still not achieved this level of integration. Viewed from the angle of strengthening security, B. Yeltsin's current actions in seeking to secure cooperation between our two countries, and an influx of foreign investments into our country, indicate that the president and his team are trying to bring the economic factor into play.

It appears that B. Yeltsin is close to success. In a situation where the U.S. lawmakers were by no means inclined to appropriate funds for aiding Russia, the president, addressing Congress, was able to persuade his audience that it is necessary to do this, above all, in the interests of U.S. security. ABC reported that leaders of both chambers of Congress stated that Yeltsin's speech probably reversed the prevailing mood in respect to the question of granting aid.

However, only time will tell how long the positive effect brought about by the current visit will last. Let's be frank: The situation in Russia is still, by no means, conducive to large-scale economic cooperation with other countries. Consequently, in regards to the economic component of security, the situation is not brilliant (let's not forget that the arms reductions themelves will call for enormous expenditure). As for sociopolitical stability, the situation is even worse.

Therefore, the implementation of the president's revolutionary decision will be filled not only with the hope for a safer world, but also with challenges. Good or bad, the very existence of a powerful nuclear potential, even in the current complex conditions, is a guarantee that other states (not necessarily the United States) will not dare to exploit our weakness. It is absolutely necessary right now to define the minimum nuclear forces and means which are essential in order to ensure that the inhabitants of Russia can pursue peaceful labor. Here it will obviously be necessary to bear in mind that our conventional forces are currently going through hard times in connection with local conflicts and the processes of troop cuts and withdrawals.

It is hardly necessary to be afraid of the existing challenges. The reduction of nuclear potential will not take place overnight. However, a period of 9 or 13 years is not a very long time. The question is whether, during this period, we will manage to overcome the crisis and find our feet at least to some extent. If we do, then nuclear warheads will not be greatly needed. If not, it will mean that, having given up the cornerstone of our nuclear potential, we will have lost even the formal attributes of a great power.

'Chances of Cheating' Eyed

LD2106185692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Vadim Soloveyev Commentary]

[Text] The new strategic arms deal that Moscow and Washington struck last week provides for slashing each other's nuclear stockpiles by two-thirds spread over a period of 11 years. Commentary is by Vadim Solovyev:

The new level of dialogue leading to a review of older approaches to the issue of nuclear weapons may have been behind the scene of the decision to give up completely the main component of Russia's strategic forces, ground-launched multiple warheads, ICBMs SS-18 and SS-24. For their part the Americans are expected to half [as heard] the number of their missiles aboard strategic cruisers, something that they refused to talk about in the past. The concept of nuclear parity is filled with new content, being based on mutual trust rather than suspicion as before. The sides have agreed that there is no need to count each missile, warhead or bomb, defining numbers to be scrapped over an 11 years period instead. However, the remaining stockpiles will be large enough to ensure defense sufficiency. To allay fears by other nuclear powers, Russia and the United States offer them to take part in the development of a global anti-missile system to be used in the event of inadvertent missile

launches. Some in Russia say Mr. Yeltsin struck the deal behind the back of the military, and that is why the new strategic arms agreement will be given a hostile reception in Moscow. But the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Forces, General Boris Pyankov, disagrees. This is what he said: Various level meetings were held, also involving officials of the Defense Ministry and the Command of Convention [as heard] and strategic forces to discuss pros and cons. Although doubts are raised, he said, as to whether it is right to do away with the country's main nuclear deterrent at a time when the Americans leave their nuclear-powered submarine fleet intact. There is a sincere drive for nuclear disarmament on both sides. General Pyankov said there was some risk, but the chances of cheating were non-existent.

Official on U.S. Summit

LD2106083492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2230 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Top Priority" program]

[Excerpts] Welcome to Top Priority, I'm Irina Tkachenko.

The first Russian-American summit took place this past week. The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, called the summit outstanding and the results of the summit were remarkable according to many observers here in Moscow yet one hears not only words of praise but rumblings of criticism and the question whether the Russian foreign policy, as outlined by Boris Yeltsin, serves the Russian national interest. Does it or does it not?

I'm talking to a man who knows more about Russian-American relations than most people in Moscow, Dr. Sergey Plekhanov, deputy director of the Institute for U.S. and Canada Studies here in Moscow, who has recently returned from the United States and is about to go there shortly. [passage omitted].

A major victory or a major concession, as some newspapers in Moscow have described the treaty?

[Plekhanov] Mr. Yeltsin has emphasized in his speech in Washington that we are abandoning the concept of parity and that has been seized upon by conservatives and military hardliners here in Moscow as an abomination.

I think there is an assymetry between the way this treaty is going to be sold in Washington and the way it is going to be sold in Moscow. In Moscow there is a vested interest in presenting the treaty as a way to get a big concession from Russia. That certainly is seen by the Administration as a better way to sell the treaty and to sell the package of economic assistance to Russia. In other words, in a tight fisted Congress besieged with domestic claims for spending the idea of giving any money to Russia has to be balanced with something from Russia so apparently there is a trade off. You see the Russians are abandoning their heavy missiles and we're helping them through the dire straits with our assistance.

In Russia the politics of selling the treaty is different. Here it has to be sold as a treaty which does not damage Russian national security. The numbers of the warheads that are going to remain with both Russia and the United States by the start of the 21st century are pretty much like an equality in numbers. There is flexibility there which, I think, is a good thing because bean counting has been discredited.

[Tkachenko] Let me give you one reason why some people here were puzzled by this treaty. Everybody remembers that about ten days ago, speaking the Russian Defense Ministry, Boris Yeltsin said that the United States, in negotiations over nuclear disarmament, was trying to gain advantage over Russia and that he would maintain the policy of nuclear parity, which he is now abandoning, as you have said. Several days later, in Washington, he signs an agreement which was described by (?Jack Mendelsohn), deputy director of the Arms Control Association, as follows, and here I quote:

On paper it looks like the two forces will be reduced equally but in fact the Russians will be giving up the backbone of their arsenal—land based multiple warhead missiles—while we will be retaining the area of our greatest strength—the sea based ballistic missiles. In other words, while Russians will be relinquishing their most powerful missiles the Americans will merely be thinning out their most sophisticated missiles.

And that set many people wondering whether this is what you can call the national interest of Russia.

[Plekhanov] I think (?Mendelsohn's) quote, and (?Mendelsohn) is a leading expert in the United States on arms control—and a radical disarmer I might say—(?Mendelsohn's) comment only underscores the point I have made, namely that the politics of selling this treaty in the United States requires that Russian concessions be emphasized.

The concessions which the Americans have made in this treaty, abandoning their most modern submarine launched ballistic systems, reducing the number of warheads that they'll be able to put on those missiles, and reducing the number, the total number, of those weapons by three times. I think that it is really a very substantial concession.

If you talk about the Russian ICBMs [intercontinental ballistic missiles] in the first place, for seven years the Russians will continue to keep a three digit number of several hundred heavy ICBMs. Then when we do away with our ICBMs completely, our multiple warhead ICBMs, the Americans will do likewise. [passage omitted]

I think it's a major victory for Russia. The fact that the SLBMs [submarine-launched ballistic missiles], the most modern SLBMs, are going to be reduced by the United

States, something which they staunchly avoided doing for years, I think it's a major victory.

But there is more to it. Let's think about those land based ICBMs. What are they for, what they can do and what problems they can cause. Many of those ICBMs are not in Russia, they are in the other nuclear republics. [passage omitted].

But I mean this treaty, which provides for the complete elimination of those missiles, reinforces the intention of both Russia and the world community to prevent the proliferation of these very, very dangerous weapons.

But there is more to it, there is the question of what these missiles really are all about. Knowledgeable people have known for some time that these missiles are sitting ducks, that they are the kind of weapons which are most likely to be used first in a crisis. But if anybody uses a nuclear weapon first that's an act of suicide. [passage omitted]

[Tkacheno] There is another aspect to this treaty which is alarming to some people here in Russia and that is the cost of nuclear disarmament. This country has been a party to nuclear disarmament processes for long enough to know how costly this business is. The dismantling of hundreds upon hundreds of nuclear missiles and the burying of the nuclear waste or nuclear fuel, on the territory of Russia or any other republic, is going to cost billions and billions of rubles. Why now, when the country needs every ruble so badly? One can't help wondering whether Mr. Yeltsin was not driven by his desire to outshine his predecessor, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, who only last fall concluded a major strategic arms reduction treaty. Any comment?

[Plekhanov] When you're dealing, when you're defusing a minefield where you want to sow some corn or wheat or something it is a costly operation but still if you have to deal with this minefield you have to do it so that's a cost which you have to bear if you want to live in a safe world. I understand that there is recognition on the American part that they would have to help Russia economically in dismantling that arsenal. This is not a handout, this is again based on a recognition that our interests here are the same.

[Tkachenko] Another sensation that made the front pages of American newspapers, prime time television news, and received much smaller media coverage in this country: American prisoners of war. [passage omitted]. Now you have in the former Soviet Union leaders who are so committed to opening up the process and being honest that they have been willing to risk the wrath of people in their country by admitting to sins of the past and that is in reference to Mr. Yeltsin's letter in which, as the American side put it, the Soviet Union recognized that it held captive 12 Americans, who were shot down during the 50s in prisons and psychiatric clinics, knew of more than 500 Americans captured by the North Koreans and the Chinese and held 716 American servicemen captive during World War Two, some in isolation for more than a year.

What was conveniently omitted was the fact that the 12 Americans who were shot down during the 50s may not necessarily have been friends taking pleasure trips over the territory of what was at that time the prime enemy of the United States, that the Soviet Army captured 114 American citizens who fought on the side of Germany and that's another source of POWs that somehow doesn't surface in our discussions on the issue. Most of those were released quite soon. That of the 760 U.S. servicemen who were interned on the Soviet territory during the Second World War most were handed back to the United States immediately and with honors. And to anyone who knows what the Second World War in Russia looked like one year, or even more, spent in isolation does not sound like a terribly tough punishment.

And finally, the Americans that were helped by the Soviet Union in Vietnam, those who did not want to fight in Vietnam and were clandestinely moved from the territory of Japan to the territory of USSR and then went to various Western countries. Let alone the fact that the Soviet Army freed over 22,000 American prisoners of war from the Nazi concentration camps. Does the phrase the sins of the past of the former Soviet Government not jar the ear for you?

[Plekhanov] No I think you've got to hold back different things here. I mean we are not talking about World War Two POWs we are talking about POWs of the cold war and the fact that the cold war is over should mean that prisoners would be returned home, right? [passage omitted].

I think that our public opinion here is not going to blow up and rage as Senator Kerry suggests. I think his remark betrays total misunderstanding of public opinion here. My own view is that morally Yeltsin had every right to do so and I am glad that he did so. [passage omitted] .

I think the U.S. Government has a problem with that, I mean they certainly didn't expect Yeltsin to throw this potato in their lap. Some Senators are now asking why the hell did the U.S. Government not raise this issue. [passage omitted].

[Tkachenko] And finally what do you think will Boris Yeltsin be able to tell the Russians, you know the people who are usually referred to as the common Russians, the people out in the streets who are not that much preoccupied with big political issues. They do not care that much, not think in terms of nuclear disarmament or of better relations with the United States. They are burdened with day to day problems, with the continuing and exacerbating crisis. Will there be anything for him to bring home?

[Plekhanov] There is a lot for him to bring home. I think that he is bringing home the much reduced fear of

nuclear confrontation. He is bringing home the palpable evidence of the fact that the cold war is over, that we no longer need be afraid of the Americans. We will be scaling down our nuclear arsenals to a level where none of the two sides will be able to start a nuclear war with any hope of winning it. The residual nuclear arsenals, which will be taken care of at a later stage, will be good only for defense. And I think that the idea of us and Americans no longer being enemies but becoming friends and partners is very, very popular. I am happy that we are no longer in a country where there is a total agreement of everyone with whatever the government does.

The results of Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States stand on their merit. I for one was proud to see him and hear him address the joint session of Congress and see senators and congressmen jump up 11 times. It was a proud speech, it was a speech of somebody who has won the trust of his people in an honest and straightforward way. Look, a lot of Russians now feel a kind inferiority complex. The missiles do not make you proud of your country because you know that this is a weapon you can not use anyway. What makes you proud of your country is certain principles that your country stands on. Again wealth is not the most important thing here but principles and the respect that you get from others, I think Yeltsin has built up respect for Russia in the United States and I don't see anything like the majority of Russians who will feel all the worse because of that. I think that Russians will understand Yeltsin correctly.

[Tkachenko] Thank you very much indeed. Dr. Sergey Plekhanov, deputy director of the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies here in Moscow, was the guest on today's Top Priority. We are wishing Dr. Plekhanov a very good trip to the United States and we are saying goodbye for at least another year. From me, Irina Tkachenko, goodbye and good listening.

Further Official Comments

LD2206085292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1212 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The completion of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's first state visit to the United States is the main international event of the day. How fruitful have the talks been? Our correspondent Lidiya Podolnaya discusses this with Georgiy Arbatov, director of the USA and Canada Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

[Podolnaya] The fact that Yeltsin and Bush agreed to reduce strategic offensive weapons by two-thirds is impressive, no doubt. Everybody is saying that this is a sensational and unexpected result. In your view, is this result really sensational and unexpected? Or could it be predicted to a degree, after all, taking into account the situation in Russia and the United States and the two president's positions?

[Arbatov] Well, this is, of course, a great achievement, especially if compared to the traditions and stereotypes which have been in existence for a long time. However, I would not say that it was totally unexpected. An accord on strategic weapons was signed by Gorbachev and Bush during Bush's visit to our country on 31 July last year. It had been in preparation for nine years, it seems. Less then two months later, in September, Bush put forward some new proposals; it was decided to keep not 6,000 but 5,000 warheads. Following that, Yeltsin took with him new proposals on his visit in late January this year.

On the whole, it was obvious that approaches should be changed in a new situation, because the classical type of disarmament talks which had taken shape during the war years had become hopelessly outdated. In general, it was not control of armaments, it was not disarmament, but rather, control of the arms race.

The fact that the cold war was over and that both countries were in a difficult economic situation—of course, ours was especially difficult, but although American problems may seem trifles to us, they could cost Bush his presidential seat. You see, this is a general rule: When you have a toothache, you do not care if your neighbor has stomach cancer. You think only about your toothache.

So, the Americans have painful problems nowadays, and in no way can this be simply likened to toothache. This is Reaganomics, and they have to pay for Reagan's policies. I think that we, too, will have to pay for Reaganomics which is so dear to Gaydar and his team.

[Podolnaya] There is a view here that Yeltsin and Bush themselves needed the visit to the United States more than anybody else in order to enhance prestige, taking into account the situation in Russia and the United States, as a matter of fact. Do you uphold this view?

[Arbatov] The visit was planned a long time ago. It would have been bad if it had not taken place, so to speak. Therefore, the visit was necessary. In principle, both presidents were in a position of weakness, I would say, that is, each had many problems, and therefore, both were looking for maximum gains in order to strengthen their political positions at home—something which is natural for politicians, anyone would do it, and I, if asked for advice, would recommend the same. I think that they have achieved it, to a degree.

However, at the same time, one should understand that in conditions when there is no threat of war or terrible catastrophe, foreign policy plays a very marginal, secondary role. People are satisfied—yes, it is good that weapons will be reduced, all this is good—but the main tasks remain at home and they have to be addressed. Had it been prevention of war [word indistinct] or crisis, it would have been a different story. But thank God the cold war is over, and this is one of side (?effects) profitable to politicians.

However, their efforts in foreign affairs are not appreciated as highly as before, precisely because the main things seem to have already been accomplished. Frankly speaking, however, militarism still has a huge legacy, and from this position I can criticize both Bush and Yeltsin and this meeting very seriously. Their meeting was more daring than earlier ones, but when the enemy has disappeared one can move even faster.

IZVESTIYA On Results of Visit

PM1806202192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Yeltsin Did Not Waste This Opportunity"]

[Text] During his visit to the United States, B.N. Yeltsin was able to show convincingly, how powerful a weapon sincerity is.

Few politicians recognize this quality to be a necessity, and even fewer see it as a virtue. Yeltsin decided that it is only by means of complete directness that the ice of age-old mutual suspicion can be exploded.

He did not merely reject double standards; he assumed a huge and unparalleled responsibility by stating that there will be no more lies, and not just in the future, but never again.

Of course, he was aware that his audience's applause does not mean that it is ready to share these principles, still less to follow them. He did not demand reciprocity; he was speaking only about his country's moral commitment.

If Yeltsin can prove by his actions that his policy recognizes no compromises with the truth, then it will not be a package of Soviet-U.S. agreements, however important these may be, nor the unparalleled ovations in the emotional U.S. Congress that will go down in history, but the return of the true, great meaning of the word "friendship."

People used to laugh a great deal at this word, particularly when it was used in connection with Russian-U.S. relations. Indeed, even now it is uttered with some degree of irony. This irony is not so much the display of an uninhibited mind as a tribute to the traditionally cynical idea of friendship as a trap for political simpletons.

Yeltsin cut through these traditions, affirming simplicity and openness in relations as the key to a new world.

His rejection of the ideology of strategic weapons parity also was explained unpretentiously. It was not that he revealed a great secret by linking all our mountains of weapons with the abyss of our poverty. People before him knew this, and they knew it without him, but the people before him were embarrassed to say it, and without him they were afraid to admit it.

Yeltsin will return to Moscow with a suitcase full of agreements, the importance of which no one can deny. The problem of the reduction of strategic weapons has been resolved for the foreseeable future. There are no longer any political barriers—only technical ones—to destroying the terrifying weapons.

There is no reason to empty the vaults of Russian banks hastily to receive the U.S. $24 billion. The Freedom Support Bill, as the draft on support for the Russian economic reforms is rather pompously called, moved much closer to reality following the visit, but it is still far from being a reality.

Once again the U.S. business world has applauded the invitation to hurry into the immense Russian market, but applause to presidents is only a warm-up for investors. Only ruble convertibility can serve as the starting signal.

These unresolved problems leave the Russian president's visit open to criticism. To use previous yardsticks, Yeltsin, like Gorbachev before him, can be reproached for continuing to play at giveaway, and Yeltsin already is being criticized for unilateral disarmament and for the fact that—no, not now, not in the next few years, but on the threshold of the next millennium—Russia will be left with a paltry nuclear arsenal capable of destroying only half of the earth instead of destroying it 1,000 times over.

Possibly there really is some risk in this, but even those who are prepared to reproach Yeltsin for a bad bargain should be influenced by the trade argument, which is so close to their hearts. If we are speaking about the even-handedness of the deal, then the Russian president exchanged the risk of remote non-parity for a sharply increased chance of peace and cooperation with the most powerful country in the world.

Will this partnership become genuine friendship? Will the Americans share the dubious secrets of their history with the same frankness with which Yeltsin is prepared to share ours with them? Will they write off their nuclear submarines for scrap in the same resolute "unparalleled" way in which Russia removed its mighty SS-18 missiles from alert status?

There are many questions that only the future can answer, but whatever happens, no one will reproach the Russian president for wasting his opportunity during these two June days.

Further on IZVESTIYA Comments

PM1906100792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jun 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Vasiliy Kononenko, Aleksandr Shalnev report: "U.S. Congress Gives Russian President 11 Standing Ovations"]

[Excerpts] Washington—The present meeting between the Russian and U.S. presidents is in fact unparalleled in

the history of relations between our countries: It ended in the signing of a total of 39 joint documents. [Passage omitted]

Naturally, we cannot list everything. However, we will stress that, as the president said, "each and every document contains an advantage for the Russians; not one of them infringes on our interests. The accords reached represent the wide road to an improvement in the people's life." Boris Yeltsin also noted that, according to his assessments, the Russian Supreme Soviet will support the accords and agreements; if it does not, this "will be a crime against all the people."

To round up the news from the second and last day of the summit, we will add that from 16 June, the most-favored-nation status in trade, which the Soviet Union lost back in the 1970's, has been restored to Russia; that immediately following his return from Washington, Yeltsin will sign a decree on the transformation of state enterprises into joint stock companies; that the SS-18 heavy missiles, targeted at the United States, are already being stood down from combat alert (yesterday we wrote about this in the future tense, but it has become apparent that the process has been started in the past 24 hours); and that Bush will come to Russia on a state visit by the end of the year.

We very much wanted to be able to supplement the list with reports on specific measures that Congress or the headquarters of American corporations had agreed to adopt with the aim of assisting or cooperating with Russia. There were hopes, albeit tiny ones, that Yeltsin would be able to make a sufficiently effective impression on the congressmen and the "captains" of business to ensure that problems that seemed deadlocked yesterday could be resolved today.

The Russian president made an impression—both on the businessmen whom he addressed at the first Russian-U.S. business "summit" which opened in Washington, and on the members of Congress who invited Yeltsin to give an address at the joint session of both houses. We can say without any exaggeration or excessive emotion that the address in Congress was truly triumphal: The 30-minute speech was interrupted 11 times by applause, and indeed almost every time everyone stood up and chanted "Boris!"

It seems to us that the rapturous way the president was greeted on Capitol Hill can be explained by the fact that Yeltsin told the American parliamentarians what they wanted to hear in the way they wanted to hear it. Yeltsin spoke about things that were frequently very utilitarian, about events and phenomena that would have an emotional and psychological effect on Americans in general and on their elected servants in particular.

For example, the Russian president inserted into his speech a couple of passages about his family, thus undoubtedly playing up to the congressmen, all of whom have photographs of wives, husbands, children, and grandchildren on their desks; he cited favorite American politicians from the past several times; and he concluded his speech with a verse from the "hit" song by the Russian American Irving Berlin, "God Bless America!", adding "And Russia!"

President G. Bush believes that now, following Yeltsin's visit, there are greater chances of the bill's being adopted. Yeltsin himself thinks the same—according to him the chances are "nine out of ten."

The Russian president was quite right when he noted at the same press conference: "$24 billion will not save Russia and will not even make its situation essentially easier."

In addition, he was also right about something else: The adoption of the bill would be an incentive for directing American private capital into the Russian market.

The visit, we repeat, gave no clear signs that this will happen in the near future, although in his speech to businessmen Yeltsin warned: "I state again: Do not delay in developing the unique Russian market in 1992-1993. Later it will be too late; it will be filled."

It is not out of the question that it will be, although, as discussions with experts show, the massive Russian market will be hard to fill inside 18 months or even in a decade. However, even this warning is not particularly effective. As Kurakin, general director of the Union of Russian Entrepreneurs and Industrialists, a participant in the business "summit," told us, "Russia is not, at the moment, one of the five or ten countries into which American private capital would be directed in a hurry."

There will be an opportunity to verify these predictions in the next few days—a delegation from a government corporation for insuring private investments will go to visit Moscow and other cities and countries of the former Union—especially in order to establish which projects it would be best to invest money in. [Passage omitted]

Youth Paper Views Outcome

PM2206110192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 1

[M. Chikin "Viewpoint": "Is a Friend of My President a Friend of Mine?"]

[Text] Had Yeltsin run for U.S. president, he surely would have gotten the better of Bush and Clinton. His speech, which at first glance looked more like a report on work accomplished, could, it seems, have surprised only the Americans—in Europe the idea that communism is dead has already been grasped: Yeltsin unveiled his thesis on the brownshirt Reds back in Paris. I think our deputies would start to get bored if the president delivered the same speech in the Supreme Soviet, although it was all right for export.

Whereas the telephone call to Solzhenitsyn was meant to make a great impression on Russians. The writer remains displeased that private plots are not being given

to the peasants and that the Russians are being harmed within the CIS, and the president promised to investigate. He is probably not being told what is going on in our garrisons in the former fraternal republics. According to Yeltsin's press secretary, repentance before the great thinker and writer could be discerned in the president's words, and at the end of the conversation he insistently suggested that the Vermont recluse return to his historical homeland.

In whist you lead with an ace. Our trump card was the U.S prisoners who are in Russian prisons. The most noble desire to return them to the United States was meant to convince the congressmen that we will do everything that lies in our power, while all they have to do is let the decision on the 24 billion through. The smartest ones immediately came up with a counterproposal: There can be no decision until the last American has been freed. Quite correct, albeit disappointing. We came with an open heart but simply did not consider that pragmatic America is a genuine Great Power and wants that and nothing else to be the case.

What was actually achieved was missile cuts. It does not matter that the missiles are twice as expensive to dismantle as they are to make, and consequently the more we destroy the more money we spend. In essence, you can cut as many missiles as you like—enough will still be left to shake half the world. Forget about parity and the disposition of forces and warheads. Our victory consists in the fact that we have finally realized that it is not of fundamental importance—it has not even been clearly defined—who is left with how many, and for this we have won the Americans' trust and approval, on which a very great deal in this life depends.

However, we will bang the drum a little later. When the president manages to persuade parliament (and the military-industrial complex) to ratify this agreement. It cannot be ruled out that, following the signing of the memorandum on creating a collective protection system jointly with the United States "and other allies," these allies will include Israel. When all this passes through the Supreme Soviet, that will mark our second victory. Here we will prove to the world that we take responsibility for our words.

It cannot be denied that we are taking a chance. Away from home, especially in the States, this is what has to be done. What matters to them is the image, the appearance, the picture. The stature, the voice, the gestures, the hairstyle; I abolished, I ordered, I dismissed—what you see is what you get. "....My friend, President Bush...."

....The good thing is not even that we have buried the Cold War but that we have managed not to catch a cold at the funeral.

Aid Sighted for Arms Reduction

OW1906171892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The forthcoming reductions in the strategic nuclear weapons agreed upon in Washington will cost Russia too dear. Without U.S. assistance, Russia will not be able to carry this programme though, said Aleksandr Savelyev, Vice-President of the Institute of National Security and Strategic Studies and member of the London Institute of Strategic Research.

He told DP in an exclusive interview that there is another option: barbaric elimination of the warhead-carriers by blasting them. This refers above all to liquid-fuel missiles. The environment may be seriously damaged, therefore the main accent should be put on ecologically safe ways of eliminating such weapons. "Of course, they will involve enormous spending," he said.

Savelyev said that the fears concerning the Russian-American agreement on slashing strategic nuclear weapons, expressed by Russian military experts, are not altogether unfounded.

They stem from traditional views on the armed forces, he said. We have always argued that the USSR, and now Russia, is a land power, and laid the main emphasis on inter-continental ballistic missiles, he continued.

The agreement reached in Washington by the Russian and U.S. presidents deals exactly with this type of missiles which are expected to be changed over to the single-warhead system. Savelyev said that Russia will have to remove a large number of inter-continental ballistic missiles from duty, including the new railroad- and silo-based SS-24s.

'Mixed' Reactions Noted

PM2206122192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

["Commentary" by observer Sergey Demidov [S.D.]: "There Will Be Fewer Nuclear 'Guns.' But Will There Be Any More Butter?"]

[Text] The Russian president's trip across the ocean is over. The results of Boris Yeltsin's first official visits to the United States and Canada as Russian head of state—the almost 40 documents and agreements signed in Washington and the five in Ottawa—have evoked mixed preliminary assessments both in our country and abroad. They cover the whole spectrum from panegyrics to virtually total rejection.

Naturally, one of the central themes of the Washington summit was the problem of reducing the two powers' nuclear arsenals, the most gigantic in the world. To universal astonishment, it proved possible to solve it on

the very first day of the summit. Although, literally the day before, it had seemed that this issue would have to be shelved for a while. In the opinion of a number of observers, the leadership of the Russian Federation and the United States adopted a mysterious air until the last moment in order to ensure that the official announcement of the accord about this had the greatest possible impact. It looks as though this tactic of secrecy fully vindicated itself. By signing the framework agreement on substantial reductions in strategic offensive arms the U.S. and Russian presidents earned applause both in their own countries and abroad. The leaders of top states welcomed the "great strides" made by Boris Yeltsin and George Bush, as the customary phrase now has it, toward a nuclear-free future.

However, at the same time the Russian president and his "Washington team" have come under fire from Russian "national-patriots" of various hues. They have yet to experience the hail of criticism from those who not only made political capital out of fear of the possibility of a nuclear clash between the two superpowers—the former USSR and the United States—but also made real economic profits during the recent "Cold War." Both B. Yeltsin himself and Andrey Kozyrev, his foreign minister, who has now been nicknamed "Mister 'Da'" (in contrast with Andrey Gromyko, his predecessor in this post during the "years of stagnation," who was known as "Mister 'Nyet'" in the West) because, in many politicians' opinion, he is trying to take our cue in foreign policy from the West, will have to hear repeated accusations of having made one-sided concessions and of disarming the country.

The agreement to eliminate the tip of the Russian nuclear lance—the heavy MIRVed ICBM's known in the West as the SS-18, SS-19, and SS-24—came as a total surprise. In general, it came like a bolt from the blue for the Russian military-industrial complex. The renunciation of nuclear parity with the United States which we heard from B. Yeltsin in Washington plunged some people into a state of despondency, and prompted a reproach from them. Nor is it to the liking of everyone in the Russian Supreme Soviet. I am sure that there will be constant allusions to the statements by U.S. arms control specialists who instantly declared that the framework agreement on strategic nuclear arms cuts gives advantages to the United States. The fact that under the agreement the U.S. side will halve the size of its main nuclear "big stick"—submarine-launched ballistic missiles—will be "drowned out." Only yesterday Washington would not even hear of this.

As for the expediency of nuclear parity between the United States and Russia, there can be no doubt that many more lances will be broken in arguments about this. At the same time I believe that the British and French Governments will have to consider the fate of their own nuclear forces under pressure from public opinion. China will clearly make its excuses for some time. Incidentally, it looks as though France feels some annoyance with Moscow and Washington for having gone behind Paris' back in announcing their readiness to do something to blunt the nuclear sword of Damocles hanging over the world.

The Russian parliament will soon have to decide the question of ratifying the Treaty on the Limitation and Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and G. Bush in July 1991, that is, six months before the collapse of the Union. For the framework agreement which Bush concluded with B. Yeltsin is directly linked with this treaty, which has been left hanging in the air.

As events in Washington showed, the threefold reduction in nuclear "guns" certainly does not mean an increase in the amount of butter, in this case in the shape of aid from the White House and credits from the IMF and World Bank. Therefore people in the Moscow White House will ask: Did the president and the government not extract too little in exchange for our missiles in the "bargaining" in the U.S. corridors of power? The date for the start of implementation of a large-scale comprehensive program of aid to Russia has still not been set. The U.S. contribution of $2.5 billion to it, which is possible only after U.S. legislators have approved the "Freedom Support" (in Russia) bill, has still not been made. Although many observers, like the U.S. Administration itself, believe that the bill's chances have improved since the Russian Federation president's speech at the joint session of the two chambers of the U.S. Congress, his sensational disclosure regarding American prisoners of war on the territory of the former Union has caused embarrassment and even perplexity. According to Britain's THE GUARDIAN, the unexpected information about this "will certainly reopen old moral wounds for the Americans." Therefore NBC TV reasonably believes that the Russian president "dropped a bombshell right in the center of events." Indeed, Senator John McCain (Republican from Arizona), who was himself a captive in Vietnam, said: "We cannot make progress on the question of aid (to Russia—S.D.) without investigating President Yeltsin's statement."

So may France's LE FIGARO have been right to describe the Washington talks as large-scale maneuvers (regarding economic aid) representing a dress rehearsal for the Russian leader ahead of July's "G-7" meeting in Munich?

Against the background of these innumerable questions the plus points achieved at the talks in Washington and Ottawa are not as yet very noticeable. The partnership in various spheres with the two North American states, of which there was so much talk in both capitals, will be possible only if Russia does not forgo its strategic interests. Otherwise we will never be seen as real partners over there.

Comparison of Bush-Yeltsin News Conference

CM2206132692

Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0805 GMT on 18 June carries a recording of the 17 June news conference held by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President George Bush in Washington. This report has been compared to the ITAR-TASS Russian version published in the 18 June Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, beginning on page 16, reveals the following variation:

Page 17, column two, paragraph 7, first sentence reads: ...and the documents—33 documents will be... (changing number of documents).

Comparison of Yeltsin U.S. Congress Speech

CM2206131392

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian carries on pages 1 and 2 of its 19 June 1992 First Edition an account of Russian President Yeltsin's 17 June speech to a joint session of the U.S. Congress. The newspaper version, carried under the headline "Russia and America Stretch Out Their Hands to Each Other," has been compared with the translation of the Russian TV account published in the 18 June Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 11-13, and reveals the following variation:

Page 13, column two, first paragraph, last sentence, reads: ...the 21st century.

Russian-American dialogue has survived more than one dramatic moment, but the Russian and American peoples have never gone to war with one another. Even in the blackest periods our love was stronger than our hatred.

As I speak about this, I would like to recall the events of 50 years ago.

At that time a world war was in progress which was unparalleled in history. Russia, which was bleeding to death, and all our people were waiting in hope for the opening of the second front.

And it was opened! First and foremost thanks to the active stance of President Roosevelt and all the American people.

Sometimes I think that if a second—but peaceful—front were opened now in the struggle for democratic market reforms, as it was during the years of that war, their success would be ensured earlier!

Of course, the.... (adding passage)

Comparison of Text of Friendship Treaty

CM2206151092

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 19 June in its First Edition on pages 1 and 2 carries the text of the Russian-American charter signed by Presidents Yeltsin and Bush 17 June in Washington. The newspaper version, carried under the rubric "Document" and the headline "Charter of Russian-American Partnership and Friendship," has been compared with the translation of the ITAR-TASS World Service version published in the 18 June Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 18-22, revealing the following variations:

Page 19, column 1, sixth paragraph, first sentence reads: ...and step up comprehensive [vsestoronniy] dialogue on various levels.... (providing variant wording).

Page 19, column 2, sixth paragraph, first sentence reads: ...and also to solving global problems.... (providing variant wording).

Page 20, column 2, fourth paragraph, first sentence reads: ...of corresponding unilateral reciprocal Russian and American initiatives in the.... (providing variant wording and adding words).

Page 21, column 2, sixth paragraph, first sentence reads: ...export control regimes. The sides will also continue to exchange experience in the field of national systems of export control.

Desiring to expand.... (adding sentence).

Further on Yeltsin's Canadian Trip, Discussions

Arrives in Canada

PM2206111892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Distance No Obstacle to Partnership"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Canada on the evening of 18 June on a state visit, in the course of which he is to hold talks on expanding cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic spheres.

The highest honors were rendered to the Russian president at Uplands air force base, near Ottawa, where his plane landed. The high-ranking guest was greeted at the aircraft ramp by Governor General of Canada Ramon Hnatyshyn, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and other officials. After the exchange of handshakes, the welcoming ceremony began, opening with a rendition of the Russian Federation anthem. There was a 21-gun salute in honor of the arriving head of state. The president inspected the honor guard.

The governor general then stepped up to the microphone and delivered a brief speech of welcome to the Russian head of state. He said:

"It is a great honor for me to welcome you on your state visit to Canada. We are glad to have you among us once again at a time of renewal and strengthening of our friendship. I hope that in these few days you will be able

to become closely acquainted with the people of Canada and see for yourself their talents and their commitment to the cause of peace.

"I know you are striving to complete Russia's transition to a democratic society and a market economy. I am confident that the talks you have here will be useful in the work of achieving that goal. You will meet with cabinet members, senators and members of parliament, and leaders of business circles and entrepreneurs, many of whom are already participating actively in Russia's economic life.

"In Montreal you and Mrs. Yeltsin will become acquainted with a dynamically developing, historic province of Canada whose leaders have demonstrated their support for the political and economic systems that are being created in Russia today. Everywhere you will meet with Canadians who are working successfully and fruitfully in such spheres as the power industry, agriculture, high-tech industries, and many others.

"We, like you, believe that the changes taking place before our eyes inspire hope of a more peaceful and prosperous world. We are proud of our contribution to that process.

"Less than a year ago Canadians, like people throughout the world, looked on in admiration as your courage changed the course of history. Since then we have invariably admired your commitment to the implementation of genuine reforms. Mr. President, Mrs. Yeltsin, on behalf of all Canadians I have pleasure in welcoming you to Canada."

In his reply speech the Russian president stated:

"First of all I would like to thank you for the kind words and to convey the warm feelings that the Russian people feel toward your country and the Canadians.

"The present time is marked by the fact that Russia is striving as quickly as possible to achieve normal relations with various states of the world, and we assign a special place among them to Canada—a country with a good reputation as an honest and reliable partner.

"Today it is necessary to make up for much that was neglected in the past, when for a long time our policy was determined not by interests, but by lifeless dogma. We have decisively ended that practice. Now the task is to establish full, mutually beneficial cooperation as quickly as possible. We advocate that Russian-Canadian relations should develop dynamically in all spheres, that Canadian entrepreneurs, industrialists, and service organizers should venture boldly into the Russian market, and that we should be open to each other and have no artificial obstacles in our relationship.

"We advocate that the remaining dark places in history be uncovered without fail, and not cast a shadow on our relations. I am convinced that Canada could become one of Russia's most active partners. I am convinced that our relations and cooperation are capable of helping to a significant degree in the resolution of internal problems and exerting a positive influence on the strengthening of stability in the world.

"In the six months since my last working visit to your country, we have seen that we set out in the right direction back then by giving preference to establishing practical contacts, rather than to lifeless political formulas. Now we have come to give new impetus to our cooperation. If it can be established—and of that I have no doubt—then mutual understanding will inevitably also be strengthened at the level of big politics—especially since there is a great and sincere desire for this on both sides.

"During the visit we intend to sign a number of important documents, among which we attach particular significance to the Treaty on Cooperation and Concord between Canada and Russia, which is unprecedented in our relations. We want it to lay the foundations for a new era in our relations, so that all kinds of barriers that have hitherto divided us are at last broken down. Their time has gone, and it is necessary to say good-bye as quickly as possible to that part of the legacy of the past that hampers our forward movement.

"During the visit much intensive work lies ahead, but we are ready for it. I know that the Canadians also like to work hard and fruitfully. I expect the visit to culminate in success. The guarantee of that is the kind feelings of Canada's citizens toward today's free and democratic Russia.

"We habitually say that great distances lie between our countries. But that is no obstacle to real partnership and friendship. When we move on to full-scale dialogue, we will become fully aware of how close our countries are, how similar our people are in their desire for peace and good-neighborliness.

"To end my speech, I would like once again to greet the citizens of the Land of the Maple Leaf and to tell them: We have come with open hearts and good intentions to start the major and serious work of mutually advantageous cooperation. Everything necessary for that now exists. I sincerely want the task we have embarked on to be achieved—after all, that is in the interests of not only the leaders of Russia and Canada, but, above all, our peoples."

The same evening Prime Minister Brian Mulroney held an unofficial dinner in his residence in honor of the president and his wife.

On 19 June, a meeting is to take place between the two leaders first one-on-one, then with the participation of members of the Russian delegation and Canadian Government ministers. In addition, the program for that day includes the president's speech in parliament, the signing of joint documents, a visit to the "Bell Northern" company research center, and meetings with leaders of opposition parties represented in parliament—the Liberal and New Democratic Parties.

After the conclusion of the official section of the visit in Ottawa, the Russian president is to spend 20 June in Montreal, where meetings are planned with Robert Bourassa, premier of Quebec, and representatives of business circles, as well as a visit to an industrial firm.

Places Wreath at War Memorial

LD1906170292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1531 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Ottawa June 19 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, currently on an official state visit to Canada, today laid a wreath to the Canadian war memorial in downtown Ottawa, thus beginning the first complete day of his stay.

At the memorial, dedicated to the memory of all Canadians, who fulfilled their military duty, the Russian guest was welcomed by Canadian Minister of Veteran Affairs Gerald Merrithew. National anthems of the two states were played and the guard of honor saluted the officials. Participants in the ceremony commemorated with a minute of silence those killed in the war. Boris Yeltsin put his signature in a book of guests of honor.

The Russian president was expected to go by car to the Canadian parliament building after the ceremony. Still the weather was good and he decided to walk along the streets, many of which are decorated with the Russian and Canadian flags.

The unscheduled walk was a vivid confirmation of the fact average Canadians, same as the country's leaders, cordially welcome the visit of the head of independent Russian state. Boris Yeltsin was enthusiastically welcomed by Canadians.

Meets With Mulroney

LD1906170892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Ottawa June 19 TASS—The Russian-Canadian summit negotiations were held on Friday [19 June] at the parliament building in Ottawa.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, currently here on an official visit, arrived to the parliament building after laying a wreath to the national war memorial.

Canadian Prime-Minister Brian Mulroney introduced to the high guest Speaker of the Senate Guy Charbonneau, Speaker of the House of Commons John Fraser and other parliamentary heads.

The Russian president put his signature in the book of guests of honor.

During the negotiations, which began after that, Boris Yeltsin and Brian Mulroney had a 30-minute tete-a-tete meeting. Than the negotiations were continued in an expanded composition.

Members of the Russian delegation, Canadian ministers and other officials were invited to participate in the negotiations. The Canadian side was also represented by foreign policy experts, as well as officials overseeing agriculture, ecology and northern development.

Addresses Canadian Parliament

LD2006094292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Ottawa, 20 Jun—Russian President B.N. Yeltsin spoke on 19 June at a joint sitting of both chambers of the Canadian Parliament. Addressing the members of the House of Commons and the Senate, he said:

For me, the President of Russia, who was the first to be elected to the highest post of a great state, it is a great honor to address you from the rostrum of Canada's supreme legislative body. The time has come when two peoples who have very much in common can take a decisive step toward one another.

The official relations between our countries were established 50 years ago. However, today one notes with regret how little has been done and how many opportunities have been missed. Now we have an exceptional change to make up for lost time.

When one speaks of Russia and Canada, it is usually noted how similar our states are. Probably only in Canada can a Russian person forget that he is in another country.

The amazing similarity of nature, the climate, and even the spaces of our states leaves an imprint on the character of Canadians and Russians.

One question is constantly on my mind. Why is it that, given such identical conditions, our countries are so differently developed and that our peoples live so differently. Canada has been recognized as a world leader for quality of life. Life in Russia is extremely unsettled and as taut as a bowstring today. In our country it is most obviously evident what huge damage has been inflicted on Russia by the 70-year long predominance of the communist totalitarian system. Here in Canada nothing is left from those arguments by which party ideologists explained the Russians' ultra-low quality of life.

Neither the northern nature, nor the harsh climate, nor some national backwardness, nor evil neighbors are to blame for the fact that Russian land has not been developed properly.

The main reasons are rooted in the anti-people's system and in the ideology which were foisted on the country and which for many years methodically destroyed the foundations of its life.

However, in Canada a citizen of present-day Russia is pursued not only by homesickness for missed opportunities. In your country the aims which we are setting ourselves become especially visible and attractive.

Indeed, in August of last year, when it was possible to defeat the putschists, when a black cloud was hanging not only over Russia, but also over the entire world, at this time the communist ideology finally collapsed, the totalitarian regime finally collapsed—once and for all. As the first president elected by the people in the 1,000-year history of Russia, I say solemnly: Finally and forever.

Today we first of all want to restore a normal country, with a normal economy, with a normal life. On the basis of our tragic experience, we have concluded that a normal condition of life is one of the highest values of human fellowship.

Russia knows only too well what a revolution is. That is why, on behalf of all Russians, I say today: The communist revolution is evil. We have chosen evolution.

Russia knows only too well what arbitrariness and lawlessness is. That is why we have chosen a law-governed state.

The nightmare of totalitarianism is better known to us than to other people, that is why we chose democracy and defended it in the August days of 1991.

We know better than others what it means to be the enemy of all and sundry, and that is why we have chosen openness and cooperation with the world community.

Russia has made a choice in favor of freedom, and no force will ever be able to take it away from us!

We no longer have any need for great upheavals. We need a great Russia. These words of the Russian patriot and reformer Stolypin have not only not lost their actuality—on the contrary, they are full of deep significance for our own lives.

We want our people to raise their children, work peacefully, and be guided not by base social instincts and ideological temptations, but by good motives and intentions.

Today we also turn to your rich experience so as to say "no" once and for all, to any ideological temptations which require human lives and reject morality.

I can assure you that, as president, I will do my best to see that Russia, to use Anna Akhmatova's phrase, does not get into a state of "mindless confusion". New broad horizons are opening up for Russian-Canadian cooperation. Half a century ago our states were allies in an anti-Hitler coalition. There is now every reason to speak of a new alliance between us. I am convinced that those who are now prepared to take a direct part in diverse Russian-Canadian contacts have long been aware of the need for such an alliance. Both sides have many cooperation projects. The time has come to give them the green light. From now on there are boundless opportunities for interaction between Russia and Canada in world affairs. We can pool our efforts in the most varied domains: in carrying out disarmament to strengthen international security and in pooling our efforts to harness potential aggressors; in ensuring that states comply with norms of civilized behavior, including treatment of their own citizens and ethnic minorities; in tackling a broad range of global problems.

We welcome your policy of constructive internationalism and are already becoming involved in cooperation to achieve the goals formulated by the international community.

Your country's long-standing commitment to the United Nations and to institutions of multilateral diplomacy in general, is well known, as is the part played by prominent Canadians, such as L. Pearson, in elaborating the practices used in UN peace-keeping operations.

This area of UN activities, as well as preventive diplomacy—safeguards against conflicts—could become a high-priority field in which we could make joint efforts. Unfortunately, the importance of such international mechanisms is growing even for Europe.

Nor do we exclude the territory of Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, or the former Union as a whole from the sphere in which necessary measures could be applied by the international community, whether by the United Nations or the CSCE.

We want peace and quiet in our home and therefore we are interested in safeguarding peace and quiet outside it. The potential for interaction between Russia and Canada with respect to world affairs has never been so big. So let us try not to miss these opportunities right now.

History tells us that merchants always go ahead of diplomats. The first treaties were trade treaties. Therefore, economic cooperation is also being brought to the forefront in Russian-Canadian relations. Our nations have lots of things to trade in, lots of things to collaborate on. Russia is rich. What we need is simply an unprejudiced approach, unrestricted by outdated notions. Then Russian-Canadian interaction can be of considerable advantage to both sides. Russia has decisively chosen the policy of economic reforms. We were aware that all economic mechanisms that had any connection with the market whatsoever were torn up by the roots over the past 70-odd years. There are almost no people left who saw life before the revolution. We took into consideration the fact that economic reforms were taking place in conditions of a deep economic crisis, and therefore, of a greater danger to civil peace.

I must say that in half a year we have managed to achieve tangible progress. Real changes have taken shape—both in the economic mechanism itself and, more importantly, in people's consciousness. The people are awaking gradually, their creative activity which was suppressed by the communist ideology is now reawakening.

We are now experiencing the most painful period. People are taking a bitter medicine and learning to act in a new way, and however hard it is, we shall not retreat. The Russian people are a patient, persistent people. Today they are gritting their teeth. Nevertheless, they realize that these are temporary burdens. They believe in the president, the government, and the parliament.

We have succeeded in signing the federation treaty. Around us, around Russia, blood is being shed, but inside Russia we have kept civil peace. Russia is united and indivisible in this period. This is very important to us.

The president of the Russian Federation supports, and will support to the end, the young Russian government of reformers. It is now practically impossible to push it aside into resignation. I myself shall not resign until 1996. I am healthy and shall support the government to the end. You know that before my journey I approved Gaydar as temporary acting prime minister and submitted to parliament a proposal to approve him as prime minister. He is just 36, a young, bold reformer.

We have now taken the first steps toward the market, of which the most important is the lifting of price controls.

We invite other countries to engage in full-blooded cooperation. I am sure that an upturn in the Russian economy is advantageous not only to us, but to our partners as well.

Russia attaches particular importance today to Western investment and to cooperation in the technical field. Today we reached an agreement on technical cooperation to ensure the safety of nuclear power stations. We shall have common programs, and if they are fulfilled it will be a complete guarantee that these stations will be absolutely safe under the supervision of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].

We are not asking for financial and material injections. I should like to state this straight and clearly. However, if the Canadian side finds it possible to offer such, it will make it easier for us to live through this difficult period. Yes, not all the necessary conditions for this have been created in Russia as yet. However, we have a firm intention to carry out this process in a dynamic way and to complete it in the shortest possible time. There is no need to invent anything new in order to do this. Our targets are those norms and standards accepted all over the world. I know that many firms in Canada are not waiting until Russia has developed an ideal investment climate. This is how one should act—not being afraid of taking risks. I am in no doubt that such risks are justified. Those Western investors who do not capture this unique market now will lose because by 1994 it will be too late. We have no other way out, no other alternative except normal economic development. When Russia becomes rich and prosperous—and I am convinced that it will become so—we shall not forget those who were the first.

We have a unique sphere of bilateral cooperation which has always attracted serious attention. It is the Arctic. The situation in the regions of the far north in Russia and Canada is causing great concern. This applies to the whole spectrum of problems, from the situation of the indigenous ethnic groups to the protection of the environment. Of course, our problems vary in their scale. The whole of the population of the Canadian Arctic region does not exceed 100,000 people and you have no major industrial centers beyond the Polar Circle. However, I think I will not be wrong in saying that only by sticking together, only by uniting, will we be able to resolve all these problems. The well-being of all the states in that region, above all of Russia and Canada, depends to a great extent on the state of the Arctic. Experience has shown that dialogue between our capitals is not sufficient to build cooperation between our countries in this sphere. Therefore, today we need to emphasize direct links between the immediate participants in cooperation, above all, between the actual residents of Arctic regions. They, like no one else, are interested in bringing well-being and prospertiy to their harsh land.

The Russian-Canadian dialogue contains another area of mutual interests which may open up additional prospects for bilateral cooperation.

I would like to begin this part of my speech by congratulating the people of Canada on the 125th anniversary of the Canadian federation. On behalf of all the Russian people, I congratulate you sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, on this anniversary.

Our states are, by their nature, federative. This creates unique opportunities for bringing the links between our states closer to people's needs and requirements.

Russia is studying with great interest the Canadian experience in regulating relations within a federation.

We are going to study your ability to resolve any problems which arise in a civilized manner, by means of talks.

I would like to say a few words about a problem which worries many people in the world, the Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Union. This unique interstate formation is today in the state of coming into being. It has already managed to make itself known as a working mechanism for seeking the most acceptable form of mutual relations between the republics.

The process of the separation of the republics and the process of their unification are taking place simultaneously within the Commonwealth. No matter how

complicated this is, we are managing on the whole to ensure that this very complicated process takes place in a controlled manner. Our most recent meeting produced the most results.

Esteemed parliamentarians of Canada!

You have quite a few opportunities to positively influence the development of Russian-Canadian cooperation. The benefits of cooperation with Russia may not always, as I have said, be obvious. They have to be explained. In the new atmosphere of our relations, that will not be hard.

I urge you to make active use of your opportunities in parliament and in the localities—in contacts with the Canadians who elected you—to actively promote the dialogue between Russia and Canada, between our peoples.

There is every reason to say that Russia and Canada have basic national interests in common. This stems from the common human aspirations of the ordinary people in our countries. It is this that, after decades of separation, has enabled a solid legal foundation for Russian-Canadian relations to be built—the treaty on harmony and cooperation that will be signed today.

The similarity of interests of which I have spoken is not built up in a vacuum. You know that quite a lot is being done on both sides to guarantee that it is converted into a constant element of our countries' domestic and foreign policies.

However, speaking from this lofty platform, I want especially to speak of Canada's active contribution to the development of our dialogue. We are grateful for the solidarity shown to democratic Russia by your country's people and political leadership during those August days. I remember my telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mulroney. It really meant an enormous amount and will never be forgotten by the people of Russia.

Your solidarity has been continued in Canada's economic and humanitarian assistance to Russia. We value highly the selfless devotion of individual citizens and organizations, particularly the resumption of the activities of the Salvation Army in our country.

Now it is no less important to master quickly the language of businesslike and mutually advantageous cooperation and partnership.

We have a clear vision of what we are seeking in our own country, in the world, and in our relations with Canada.

Our intentions are open. We are prepared for the painstaking work which is the essence of any partnership. We have a long and difficult road ahead.

I am convinced that in order to achieve the best results, our peoples must proceed together.

I should like to wish you a bon voyage, Russians and Canadians, and may you be successful in opening up the peaceful expanses of mutual cooperation!

Signs Treaty

LD1906185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Ottawa June 19 TASS—Members of the Canadian Parliament warmly welcomed Boris Yeltsin, currently here on an official state visit, who addressed a special joint session of the Canadian Parliament Senate and the House of Commons on Friday [19 June].

Addressing the law-makers, Yeltsin attracted their attention to the fact "new broad horizons of Russian-Canadian cooperation have opened." From now on there are no limits to possibility of Russian-Canadian interaction in world affairs, pointed the Russian leader.

The two countries can joint their efforts in the following areas:

—In consolidation of international security through disarmament and keeping in check potential aggressors by collective efforts,

—In ensuring the world-wide observation of norms of civilized behavior of states, including that as regards their citizens and ethnic minorities,

—In the solution of a wide range of global problems.

Russia wants internal peace and tranquility and thus it is interested in ensuring peace and tranquility outside Russia, said the president. Possibilities of Russian-Canadian interaction in world affairs are larger than ever. The two countries should try not to miss them.

The Russian guest expressed the conviction "there are all grounds to speak of similarity of basic national interests of Russia and Canada." The core of this similarity is the striving of average people of the two countries. This very thing enabled to lay a solid legal basement for the Russian-Canadian relations—the treaty on concord and cooperation.

The ceremony of signing this treaty and other Russian-Canadian documents was held in the parliament building after the president completed his speech.

Mulroney on Negotiations

LD1906214392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2051 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Ottawa June 20 TASS—The Russian-Canadian negotiations on Friday [19 June] in Ottawa centered on

the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, relations with Ukraine and the Baltics, the situation in Yugoslavia and preparations for the Munich meeting of the Seven.

As for bilateral relations, the sides discussed trade, power engineering, investments and fishing. Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney told a news conference in the parliament building. They also focused on a possibility of Russian purchases of Canadian wheat.

Another two commercial contracts were concluded by Russia and Canadian firms on Friday [19 June], said Mulroney. Several more deals of the kind to an overall amount of 150 million dollars are being considered.

The premier said President Yeltsin asked for international investments, noting he is glad to say the Canadian Government will give guarantees on foreign investments to a sum of up to 200 million dollars to another six Canadian companies planning to invest in Russia.

In the words of Mulroney, Canadian Minister of Foreign Trade, Industry and for Science and Technology Michael Wilson will soon come to Russia, heading a representative delegation of the Canadian business community interested in the establishment of trade, economic and investment relations.

Mulroney also said the Canadian Government intends to expand the program of technical assistance to Russia and other CIS states to achieve within three years 100 million dollars.

Other projects under discussion are personnel training in various spheres: from management to cartography. The new plans will supplement the existing 45 projects which have been fulfilled or are being implemented.

Canada intends to continue humanitarian aid to Russia in addition to the one rendered last winter. The state will allocate five million dollars more for the delivery of various medicines.

An important aspect is safety of Russian nuclear facilities, believes the Canadian official. Canada will grant 30 million dollars to lessen the danger of nuclear accidents.

Mulroney also announced the creation of a Yeltsin fund of democratic scholarships. This program will be financed by the Canadian Government, which allocated 10 million dollars for this purpose. The money will help young Russians come to Canada (20-25 people a year) to work in various spheres: from the Canadian Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance to private enterprises.

This initiative of the Canadian Government will help the young people, who upon their return home will occupy key places in fulfillment of the democratic reforms begun by Boris Yeltsin. Canada hopes the granting of Yeltsin scholarship will be an award to young Russians striving to make democracy progress in their motherland.

This is also an evidence of Canadian profound respect to Yeltsin's actions last August, which Canadians estimate as an extremely courageous deed in defence of democracy.

They wanted to find a feasible and long-standing form of expression of their feelings and hope the means from the fund will enable Russians come to Canada for many years to come.

Yeltsin Briefs Newsmen

LD2006091592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2341 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov, and Andrey Shitov]

[Text] Ottawa, 20 Jun— With the return of Russia to the family of civilized states, the opportunity has emerged for it to raise its relations with Canada to a completely new level, to impart a new quality to them. This is the thought with which Russian President Yeltsin started his speech at a news conference on the results of the Russian-Canadian summit talks. "Having signed extremely important international documents today, an especially full-scale treaty on concord and cooperation which envelops practically all spheres of our cooperation we expressed the will to be friends, partners, and to expand our ties with one another and mutual cooperation in international affairs with all the means at our disposal," he stated.

"I would like to stress the particular importance of the treaty on concord and cooperation," the Russian leader continued. "Reflected in it is Russia's adherence to human rights in keeping with international standards, the generally accepted principles and norms of international relations, its striving to promote the establishment of democratic values, justice and freedom. These words were hypocritically used by the communist rulers earlier as well. However, today they are acquiring new, genuine meaning for us. I am convinced that on the basis of this new community, our relations will take shape more dynamically and more closely than in the past. We regard Canada as one of the most responsible and conscientious partners."

I am very glad that the first bricks—the agreements on various specific spheres of cooperation—have already been laid on the new firm foundation of the treaty on concord and cooperation, said B. Yeltsin. Today I was also gladdened, one might say, and also excited by the completely new, non-standard proposals on new forms of our cooperation, which were made by the prime minister on behalf of the Canadian government.

Taking as an example the initiative of B. Mulroney, on the setting up of a special stipendium fund for young Russians, the Russian Federation president stated: "This is very important. Every year, 25 talented people will study in Canada. This is not only the future of Russia, you see. This is the future of Canadians as well. These

people will spend a year studying Canadian politics, the Canadian economy, Canadian technical progress, the Canadian service sphere, and so forth. Then when they return to Russia they will definitely agitate for ties and trade with Canada, since they have already studied the Canadian market. This is a very far-going economic view of the future, and I do not rule out the fact that in time these talented people will come to occupy the most key posts in the leadership of Russia."

Yeltsin voiced the conviction that the agreement signed during the visit on trade and economic relations between Russia and Canada will create new conditions for the rapid growth of ties in this sphere in the immediate future. I have no doubt, he continued, that the agreement on cooperation in the Arctic and the North will bring our peoples considerable benefit. It will allow us to develop, and at the same time, to protect an extensive area which is bleak, but fragile and sensitive to the influence of modern civilization, and to protect our national minorities. I am pleased, the president of the Russian Federation further said, that a document has been signed on cooperating with Canada in the areas which are of particular interest to us—namely in the conversion of defense industry and in developing our agro-industrial complex.

Unfortunately, it must be admitted that the former Soviet Union was, and now Russia is, over-militarized. The best brains and the best trained hands were channeled into exactly this field. Now we have to reduce all this potential threefold and cut the nuclear warheads to one-third. This is a colossal task. This is not the end of it: we must also install modern equipment and get civilian production going. In this respect, our cooperation has most excellent prospects.

Speaking on agriculture, B. Yeltsin said: "Of course, our climates are equally severe, but unfortunately, the results we achieve are quite different and we shall be very interested to find out about the Canadian experience in this sphere. "I have suggested that we sign an agreement on purchasing grain from Canadian farmers which has been kept in reserve from last season, or last year", the president said. "We are prepared to buy one million tonnes of grain at world prices, and quite soon too—in June, July and August, that is before this year's harvest. This would stabilize the situation in our country considerably and would in some way, make people's life easier. I think this offers many advantages to the Canadian farmers as well".

In conclusion, B. Yeltsin expressed his gratitude to his Canadian interlocutors, adding the following: "I am grateful to Prime Minister Mulroney personally for our good mutual understanding. We established this rapport during our previous meeting—cosmonauts call it a sense of mutual compatibility. We grasp each other's meaning very quickly and come to an agreement in virtually no time. It took literally just a few hours to agree upon such important documents as those signed by us today. I thank the Canadian people, the Parliament and Prime Minister Mulroney for an honest, open policy. This is what our own policy is going to be—no duplicity, just an open and honest policy".

Further on Yeltsin Briefing

LD2006052992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0506 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov, and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Ottawa June 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, at a meeting with journalists on Friday [19 June] at the close of Russian-Canadian summit talks, answered questions dealing with a wide range of topics—from the state of Russia's relations with CIS countries to prospects for the G-7 meeting in Munich.

Touching upon the problem of a withdrawal of Russian troops from the newly-independent Baltic countries, Yeltsin emphasised that there had been an "absolutely firm" political decision on their full withdrawal. The problem is posed by a time-frame for the pull-out, he said. Russia is now lacking funds for the construction of housing and other facilities for the servicemen of units that are to be withdrawn.

Speaking about relations with Ukraine, the Russian leader said he hopes to discuss and settle the acutest issues concerning bilateral relations at the forthcoming meeting with President Leonid Kravchuk on June 23.

Asked what has been and is the major hindrance to an influx of private capital investments to Russia, Yeltsin mentioned the right to private ownership of land which the private entrepreneur did not have. At present, the president said, the recently adopted legislation stipulates that if a private entrepreneur has built or privatised something on a land plot in Russia, the land in question is his property.

Besides, Yeltsin said, Russian and foreign private entrepreneurs have been put on an equal footing in taxation matters. In spheres which are of priority to the republic, the customs duty for foreign private investors will be 50 percent lower than now. The Supreme Soviet (council) has adopted amendments to the law, removing all barriers to the privatisation of Russian property by foreign investors.

Touching upon prospects for a regular meeting of G-7 leaders and his participation in it, Yeltsin spelled it out as his main task "to reaffirm that we accelerate the pace of reforms rather than depart from them."

"The main thing at the G-7 meeting will be to convince the International Monetary Fund that Russia should not be treated just as any other country," the president said. Following 75 years of the propaganda of communism, it

is difficult for the peoples of Russia to readjust themselves to new democratic foundations, to a market economy and to international agreements on human rights.

"Therefore the IMF standard project should not be applied to us to the letter. It is necessary that there be a unique approach on their part as well," Yeltsin emphasised.

"Therefore I think that during the meeting in Munich G-7 leaders should somehow throw their weight to persuade the IMF into opening a 24-billion-dollar credit line", he emphasised.

Visits University

LD2006190592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1840 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Montreal June 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today visited the McDonald Agricultural College of the Quebec McGill University. At the college he was met by Canadian Minister of State (Agriculture) Pierre Blais, University Rector David Johnson and other officials.

The Russian president said the Canadian agricultural research experience is very important for Russia to be used in its land reforms. Russia already has 130,000 farms, which is still too little. The country needs about five million of them.

When at the college, the president visited the Analytical Center of Dairy Cattle Breeding, which is a farm and a scientific laboratory. Yeltsin inquired about technological processes and showed so profound a knowledge of agricultural production, the analytical center head had to call consultants to answer to the Russian official.

Quebec Government head Robert Bourassa gave a breakfast in honor of the Russian president.

Then Boris Yeltsin met businessmen from Quebec and other Canadian regions. The meeting was also attended by Russian entrepreneurs. Yeltsin said they came to Canada to learn about their experience.

It is difficult for western businessmen to work in Russia, he noted. However, a legal mechanism is being created to protect foreign capital in the Russian Federation. A regime for foreign entrepreneurs cannot be less favourable than that for Russians.

Addresses Montreal Business People

LD2106094192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2104 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Montreal, 21 Jun—On 20 June, Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed a meeting of representatives of business circles at the Montreal "Ritz Carlton" hotel. He said:

Esteemed Mr. Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec (applause), esteemed ladies and gentlemen (applause), prominent entrepeneurs, prominent figures of Quebec (applause), esteemed inhabitants of Quebec (applause), first and foremost, I would like to thank the prime minister and all of you for the fine and kindly smiles which have greeted us on the streets and at this hotel. One senses that the people here are meeting us with open hearts and an understanding of all which is being done in Russia. I would like to thank you on behalf of our delegation for these kind smiles and kind words.

Quebec is famous in Russia. It is also famous for your businessmen who, without waiting for any formalities, have already started to actively ply their trade on Russian territory.

I believe that businessmen are the cream of any nation. They provide prosperity, turn dreams into reality, and organize the amenities of life for people. For many years our country was altogether deprived of this class. For almost 75 years the very spirit of enterprise was persecuted. If you earned more, say, than 1,000 rubles monthly, you were, as it were, a swindler.

The result of this can be seen in Russia. It is the low standard of living of people where 50 percent now live practically on the poverty line. For 70 years we experienced to the full, how the people and the state are orphaned if they are deprived of the particular kind of people who are referred to throughout the entire world as businessmen. However, we intend to change this situation. Russia has begun its economic reforms and all the characteristics of a normal market economy have already been revived. Many obstacles to private investments in Russia have been removed, including some just recently. It includes private land ownership. A draft law has been adopted and private investors are entitled to acquire land, build enterprises, and privatize property.

For 75 years, Russia did not know what private ownership meant. For this third generation, not only has the name been erased from our memories, but the genes have disappeared, the very concept of entrepeneurship and private ownership. Today, an overwhelming majority of Russians are in favor of private ownership and it has already been legalized. This is the best guarantee of the fact that reform in Russia is taking place and that it is irreversible.

At the same time, you know, to a significant extent, the success of reforms is connected with the development of foreign economic cooperation. Russia is starting to learn about a normal market economy. We want to learn from professionals, from Canadians who have been working in market economy conditions for 125 years.

In the first place, we call upon you enterprising Canadians to participate in the major deals for the implementation of joint projects. I am convinced that they will definitely be of tangible benefit to Russia and Quebec and will at the same time, help us to grasp the difficult science of the market economy. I think that if the time limit on our agreement, our treaty, expires, then, Mr. Prime Minister, in my view, we need to immediately revive it and sign the same sort of agreement, but on a new basis. If you, of course, are in favor.

Having come to Canada on an official visit, I could not leave out Quebec or omit Montreal. Of course, I have not come here to ask for help. The process of Russia's re-integration into the world community can only be based on mutually advantageous cooperation. I shall believe my task fulfilled if the mutual interest of the Russian and Canadian people and the people of Quebec are translated into specific schemes, goods, technologies and jobs for all our provinces and states.

We are people with a business approach. Therefore, let me mention some practical matters. It is known that entrepreneurs from Western countries do not find working in Russia easy. Therefore, we are taking specifc steps to change this situation. Legal mechanisms regulating the protection of foreign entrepreneurs and their involvement in our economy are being created. A law on foreign investments has already been adopted. In accordance with this law, business conditions created for foreign entrepreneurs cannot be less favorable than those for the Russian businessmen and entrepreneurs. It guarantees them against expropriation and safeguards their right to take profits made in Russia out of the country.

I have adopted a legislative act on bankruptcy which will become the most important instrument in the reorganization of state-owned enterprises. An economic act on selling plots of land for private ownership has been adopted—I have already mentioned this—as state enterprises are being privatized. In accordance with this, the rights to immovable property have passed over to the new private owners of privatized enterprises, including foreign citizens. On the eve of my departure for Washington, Canada, and Quebec, I signed a document which precisely regulates this arrangement.

The government has worked out a standard draft agreement on protecting investments and preventing double taxation. Such agreements have already been signed with several countries. We are also developing the practice of insuring investments in Russia. A suggestion is being considered by parliament—actually, I proposed it—to introduce tax benefits for foreign investments in priority areas of the Russian economy, which include cutting customs duty by half. We intend to progress toward further liberalization of our foreign economic activities. As I have already said, we are planning to reduce customs tariffs, to impose fewer quotas and licenses and to provide real exemption from tax duty on their own products for foreign-owned enterprises and those with foreign participation. By the end of next year, we are going to stop charging export tariffs altogether, except on gas exports.

A number of steps have already been taken to introduce a convertible ruble as soon as possible. As of 1 July, the ruble will become a universal and, later, the sole means of payment on Russian territory. For exporting enterprises there will be a compulsory sale of 50 percent of hard currency profits on the currency market. Later, all profits from exports will be sold in this manner. All of this will create economic guarantees for foreign investors. They will easily be able to convert rubles earned in Russia into hard currency. A single exchange rate for the ruble will also be introduced.

There will also be additional benefits for the export of casing-head gas. Two major projects are under way to explore the Shtokmanovskoye deposit and the shelf of Sakhalin Island. I must say that our geologists have already discovered and assessed gas reserves of 350 trillion cubic meters. There will be enough of it for the next 200 years.

In the near future the Russian government intends to invite tenders for three major oil deposits in western Siberia with a total capacity of 2.5 billion tonnes of oil. We are ready for the participation of your companies, which possess modern technologies, in the opening up of the north. We could cooperate on a wide spectrum of areas with Quebec businessmen—in the processing of enormous amounts of waste from metallurgy and chemical works, in the regeneration and secondary use of oils and lubricants, in the cellulose and paper industry, in the service sphere, in the creation of ecologically clean production methods, and in a lot more.

The economy of Russia was corrupted for all these many decades. A militaristic leaning and the defense industry predominated. Therefore, conversion of the defense industry is of particular importance. We have proposed that you participate very actively in mutually advantageous conditions in the conversion of defense enterprises in Russia.

We are also interested in various forms of long-term partnership in the area of agricultural industry, as well as in light industry and in the food industry. Today I visited the agriculture department of a dairy farming college. Of course, I must say that to my regret we do not have anything like that. You have organized this system of monitoring the milk production and dairy farming not only in your country, but you have also introduced it, let's say, in Brazil. We would be very interested in concluding an agreement with the Quebecois in this area.

We want to reintroduce the practice of granting concessions for various raw mineral resources, forest, water, and land areas of economic significance, as well as other objects of economic interest to Russian and foreign entrepreneurs. A law on deposits has also been adopted.

Russia has scope. It has scope in people, scope in natural resources, in territory. Russia is capable of rapidly reviving the economy by moving to a market economy. However, in order to do that we will obviously have to transfer your experience to our land. Maybe not in its entirety but at least in principle.

Having returned to the international economic system, Russia will become a huge and steadily growing market for foreign technologies, goods and entrepreuners. Today many barriers which had seemed to be insurmountable are being broken down. We are prepared to destroy the remaining obstacles which hold back Russia's free interaction with foreign entrepreuners on a symmetrical basis. I have already spoken to business people during this visit: Russia is today the most unique market in the world. There is no other market like it, not in scale, not in the variety of spheres of activity. Therefore, I ask you: Hurry to get a stake somewhere in Russia. Anyone who is late this year or next, it will be too late for him in 1995. The Russian market will be full.

Once more, I thank the people of Quebec for this warm meeting, for such a wonderful reception. I call on you all to join in a toast to the health of the Quebec prime minister, to the prosperity of Quebec and to the friendship of our peoples.

Departs Canada

LD2106045792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0445 GMT 21 Jun 92

["Urgent—Yeltsin ends visit to Canada"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Montreal June 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin left Montreal for home on Saturday night [20 June] after ending an official visit to Canada.

A number of documents were signed during the visit, including the treaty on accord and cooperation, which open up favourable prospects for the deepening of political, economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Results of Visit Assessed

LD2106141192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0305 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vlentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa, 21 Jun—On 20 June, Russian President Boris Yeltsin completed his state visit to Canada, taking back to Moscow a "packet" of agreements on deepening political and business relations, the promise of technical aid, the additional sale of grain, and assurances of support for the Russian leadership's course on economic reforms.

The treaty on accord and cooperation, which declares the intention of Russia and Canada to develop their relations on an amicable basis, is of prime significance among the documents signed. The president evaluated this treaty as "a firm legal foundation" for Canadian-Russian relations. The treaty signifies the end of the estrangement between the two countries which has been going on for decades. Both states have pledged to build links on the basis of their adherence to democracy and economic freedom. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, introducing the Russian president in parliament, said: "We have assembled here in order to announce the start of a new era of peace and cooperation between peoples who have been cut off from each other for too long."

During talks and meetings, the prime minister and members of his cabinet made it clear that they are 100 percent behind the reforms being carried out in Russia, that they are aware of the collosal difficulties the country is encountering, and are ready to offer assistance. It goes without saying that this does not mean that Canada or any other state will forget their own interests in doing this, or will fail to take into account the degree of risk involved. As became clear, for example, at a news briefing by a repesentative of the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Canada will strive to resolve, together with Russia, the problems arising in connection with delays in the payment of credits given for the purchase of grain. However, Canada has not replied to the proposal for agreeing on their deferment.

During his speeches in Canada, Boris Yeltsin repeatedly stressed that Moscow is not asking for aid but is far more interested in increasing Western investment in its economy and introducing into the Russian economy Canadian experience in the agricultural sector and in other branches of the economy. This was the main theme of the president's speech in Montreal at a meeting with representatives of business circles on the last day of his visit. The president stressed that at the present time the legal mechanism for protecting foreign capital in Russia is being set up. The regime for Western businessmen cannot be any less conducive than that which exists for Russian entrepeneurs. Yeltsin even warned waverers that in a year or two it will be difficult to make inroads into the Russian market so delay will be punished.

Did he succeed in convincing Canadian businessmen that they need to hurry up and enter our market more boldly? Undoubtedly, the words of the president will be taken into account. Time will tell whether caution and the tendency of the majority to wait a little longer has been overcome. At the present time the scope of business cooperation does not correspond to the opportunities available to the two countries.

Perhaps the most engaging moment of the visit was the president's welcome within the Canadian Parliament. It was the first time that a leader from Moscow has been given the opportunity to address a joint session of both chambers. The legislators stood and welcomed the Russian head of state in their hall with prolonged applause. His speech was also frequently punctuated by applause as due recognition for the man who defended the burgeoning democracy in Russia, and is in charge of the

difficult work of building a new society. Like his speech in the U.S. Congress a few days before, Boris Yeltsin stressed in his speech to the Canadian Parliament that Russia has once and for all disssociated itself from Communist ideology and a totalitarian regime.

The 48 hours spent in Canada have not, of course, settled all of the problems arising in the course of joint work. They have undoubtedly helped both countries to move closer to one another, and have helped strengthen trust and mutual understanding between the leaders of the two countries, and have prepared the ground for new specific steps in expanding mutually beneficial cooperation.

Yeltsin's North America Visit, Talks Assessed

LD2106161592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—"From now on the relations between the new Russia, the United States, and Canada will be constructed on the common values and ideals of human rights, free enterprise, and humanism", a report from the press service of the Russian president published here today says. Boris Yeltsin has completed his offical state visits to the United States and Canada, which lasted from from 16 to 20 June.

The charter on Russian-American partnership and friendship, the framework agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States on global reductions in strategic offensive weapons, and other Russian-American agreements that were signed during the visit "bring us to a principaled new stage of Russian-American cooperation and open the way toward a new era of trust, without the prejudices and limitations caused by ideological confrontation," the report says.

During the talks, Russia and the United States agreed to cut their strategic offensive weapons by more than three times and to strictly fulfill all obligations regarding the reductions in strategic offensive weapons. The document notes that the "governments and the people of the United States and Canada decisively support the radical reforms in Russia."

Apart from signing fundamental strategic agreements, Boris Yeltsin was able to agree on real support for the reforms in Russia from both the states and private business. The Russian president's visit to the United States and Canada showed that Russia's new dynamic policies enjoy profound trust and respect in these countries. Russia has shown itself to be a great power. Russia's policies and President Boris Yeltsin enjoy the genuine and profound support of the world community, the reports stresses.

Search for U.S. POW's in Russia To Continue

LD1906190192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Polovko]

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS—There is no and has not been a single U.S. POW in Pechora prison camps, concluded head of the Russian delegation in the joint Russian-American commission on POWs and MIAs Colonel Anatoliy Volkov.

This conclusion was confirmed by U.S. delegation head and political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow William Davnie.

The commission visited Pechora, since, according to the information they had from the U.S. side, there they could learn about U.S. pilot David Marken, who participated in the Korean war and was allegedly kept in the Pechora camp between 1982-1989.

The commission examined prison documents and interviewed prison officials and former inmates. Still they found no evidence of the U.S. pilot or other U.S. POWs imprisoned there.

The commission will go on searching for ex-U.S. servicemen, who probably were imprisoned on Russian territory. The Russian side has offered the Americans to hold a meeting with their information source in order to make a more clear picture of the fate of U.S. POWs.

'Top Secret Document' on Tambov POWs Issued

LD2206145692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Aleksandr Russkiy for TASS

[Text] Tambov June 22 TASS—Secret documents on foreign prisoners, especially Americans, have been made accessible for journalists by the information centre of the Interior Ministry of the Tambov region (Central European Russia).

One top secret document, order Nr. 1/588, of May 1, 1945, addressed to the warden of camp 188, Rada, close to the city of Tambov, announced the arrival of POW's from France, Luxembourg, Alsace, the USA and England. The document, signed by Tambov heads of the KGB, estimated the number of POWs at 2500.

According to Vladimir Penkov, head of a department of the Tambov Administration, it might have been a transfer of POW's from German concentration camps to Soviet Gulag. To find out the exact number of the transferred POWs and the destiny of each of them, as Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised, specialists will have to work hard, he added.

There were several camps and hospitals for POWs in the Tambov region, in particular, in the towns of Kirsanov and Morshansk and at the station of Khobotovo. Penkov said some documents from the camps remained, however camp number 56 at the station of Khobotovo was eliminated in 1943 together with all the documents right after the victory in the Stalingrad battle in which a lot of

prisoners were taken. But it is our duty, he added, to try everything to find out where the remains of the foreign prisoners are.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Hails U.S. Visit; Prepares for Kravchuk

LD2106122692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—President Yeltsin described today the results of his visit to the U.S. and Canada as a major success.

Responding to questions of journalists at the airport upon his return to Moscow, he specially stressed the agreements with the U.S. on a global reduction and elimination of nuclear armaments. "This is a good basis for stability in the world, for the tranquility in every family, for the confidence that there will be no war," the president said.

Yeltsin rejected categorically the assertions of some leaders of "national-patriots" that the agreements signed in the U.S. betray Russia's national interests. "This is more than unjust, this is an insult... We did not go back on any item, did not make any concessions, this is absolutely out of the question," he said. All the 39 agreements were concluded exclusively for the benefit of the Russian people, for the sake of improving life in Russia. According to Yeltsin, this is also true of the five documents signed in Canada.

"I am extremely worried over the latest developments in Bendery, Moldova. I would like to warn President Snegur through the mass media. Of course, we favour the settlement of problems at the negotiating table, by political means. But when dozens of people were killed, when there is a war going on, we cannot remain indifferent. After all, we must react in order to defend people and stop the bloodshed. We have the strength to do it, and let President Snegur know about it," the Russian president stated.

The president said he was flying to Dagomys, the Krasnodar region, on Monday [22 June] night, where he would meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. "We shall try to settle the most burning problems and, perhaps, sign some documents," he pointed out. "I hope for it, because there is no doubt we should live in peace with Ukraine. There are some different viewpoints, however, and they should be discussed calmly, but in a business-like manner."

Government Considers Ossetia Developments

Official Statement Issued

LD2006201992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1919 GMT 20 Jun 92

["Statement by the Government of the Russian Federation;" from the "Vesti" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] A Russian Federation Government statement: Having reviewed the situation which has been created in North and South Ossetia, at its session on 20 June the Russian Federation Government notes that the escalation of the armed conflict in this region has reached a critical point.

Coercive actions aimed at forcing the non-Georgian population out of the territory of South Ossetia are a gross infringement of human rights. The stream of refugees to North Ossetia—part of the Russian Federation—is increasing, causing direct damage to Russian security.

The Georgian leadership has developed a large-scale campaign of disinformation against its own people and the world community. We deny the accusations against Russia regarding an act of aggression against Georgia. During the visit [to Tskhinvali] by Kondratyev, deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, which was coordinated with the Georgian leadership, tanks opened fire in the vicinity of the helicopter regiment which he was visiting. Two helicopters of the Russian Armed Forces opened retaliatory warning fire in self-defense.

It is characteristic that previously such incidents as the bombardment of Tskhinvali and the units of the Russian Army stationed there were ascribed to Zviadist formations beyond the control of the Georgian leadership. Now the Georgian authorities have practically admitted that units of the National Guard subordinate to the Georgian State Council have been drawn into the armed conflict in South Ossetia.

The Government of the Russian Federation resolutely insists on an immediate cease-fire, that armed formations on both sides be pulled back from the line of contact, and that actions by terrorist groups be halted, and proposes that representatives of Georgia, South Ossetia, Russia, and North Ossetia immediately begin talks to seek ways to achieve a political solution to the South Ossetia problem.

In the event that parties to the conflict disregard these just demands, which are based on accepted international norms, the Russian Federation will take all necessary measures to defend human rights and the life and dignity of the population of the region and to restore peace and law and order.

The Government of the Russian Federation intends to inform the UN secretary general of the situation in South Ossetia, where a threat to international peace and security is emerging. If necessary it will approach the UN

Security Council. Citizens of Russia may rest assured that the country's leadership will act in a considered and resolute way to prevent the flames of the conflict from flaring out of control.

[Signed] Gaydar, acting chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Defense Ministry Welcomes Statement

LD2006233992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2200 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zharkov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun—The adoption of statements by the Russian Federation Government has signaled an important stage in the development of events in the Dniester region and South Ossetia. In the view of a high-ranking representative of the Russian Defense Ministry leadership, "one gets the impression that the wave of events is no longer swamping us, but that we gradually are beginning, if not keeping ahead of them, then at least keeping up with them."

The timeliness and importance of the documents adopted by the Russian Government is underlined by the latest report from the Russian Defense Ministry press center. At 2225 on 20 June, while their training was nearing completion, a floating-bridge regiment of the 14th Army was subjected to an unprovoked attack. Fighting is continuing in the Dniester region. Under these conditions, the government's resolution directing servicemen "to take adequate measures to curtail aggressive acts by ensuring the right to self- defense, including firing on attackers" could, I think, play an important role in halting military action.

From now on the Army can defend itself, which simply seems essential in current conditions. According to information from the coordinating council of officers' assemblies of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, 31 servicemen in the Russian Army were killed and 69 wounded in trouble spots over the first five months of this year.

Rutskoy Discusses Ossetia, Dniester

LD2006210392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1957 GMT 20 Jun 92

["Statement by Russian Federation Vice President A.V. Rutskoy" in the Russian Television studio in Moscow—live or recorded]

[Text] Esteemed citizens of Russia and citizens of the CIS: As vice president of Russia, in the absence of the president, and in connection with the events in Moldova and the Dniester region, Georgia, and South Ossetia, I am forced to make a statement to you.

In the course of the past 24 hours, events in Moldova have become extremely threatening. Contrary to all agreements on a cease-fire in the Dniester region and the separation of the conflicting sides, and contrary to the decision of the Moldovan parliament on a peaceful resolution of the conflict, Moldovan armed formations have attacked the towns and villages on the left bank, firing all types of weapons. Under the cloak of the cynical claims of President Mircea Snegur on the restoration of the lawful bodies of authority, bloody carnage has been unleashed, the main victims of which are the civilian population.

According to the latest data, there are already hundreds of fatalities. In Bendery, the town executive committee building, which is being defended by lawfully elected deputies, is under siege. Tanks and armored personnel carriers are firing at the half- destroyed town executive committee building at practically point- blank range.

Subunits of the 14th Army under Russian jurisdiction have also been subject to assault. Several military servicemen have been killed. There are also wounded, and hostages have been taken.

Unfortunately, events are developing according to a similar scenario in South Ossetia where, as a result of the full-scale assault of Georgian guerrillas and military formations, half of Tskhinvali has been seized and the city practically completely destroyed. Casualties among the civilian Ossetian population total hundreds. Russian troops are being subjected to multiple barrages.

And again, the same cynical statements by Georgian State Council leader Eduard Shevardnadze. The Russian Federation is not looking for advantageous acquisitions beyond Russian borders. We have been giving and continue to give precedence to peaceful political means to resolve any conflicts and disagreements. We are ready now to continue diplomatic dialogue on the basis of the principles of goodwill, international law, and the observation of human rights.

But at the same time, the Government of the Russian Federation considers itself entitled and bound in all seriousness to issue this warning: Russia will not permit the Dniester and South Ossetian conflicts to be resolved by force. We intend to resolutely put an end to the mass killing of the peaceful population. At a meeting of the Russian Government today, it was decided to empower the Armed Forces under Russian jurisdiction to use all available means to repel attacks on servicemen and members of their families. Our troops have already taken the first actions for the necessary defense and will henceforth respond in a commensurate fashion.

At the same time, we appeal to the CSCE member-countries, the members of the United Nations, and the world community to condemn the acts of genocide in Moldova and Georgia and to take measures to halt these crimes against humanity. The Government of Russia calls on the authorities in Georgia and Moldova to heed the voice of reason and stop the senseless carnage.

In these difficult and critical hours we are relying on the understanding and support of the corps of deputies and all citizens of the CIS and Russia, with its many nations.

We are counting on the support of the world community, the support of the United Nations and the UN Security Council. We call upon the peoples of the world, the political leaders of the powers, to condemn and to call to account the politicians who have gone too far and who have unleashed genocide against their own people.

Reaction Noted

LD2106215592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy by anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev; from the "Itogi" newscast—live]

[Text] [Kiselev] With us in the studio is Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, whose statement on the events in South Ossetia and Moldova was the main news yesterday. Aleksandr Vladimirovich, did you have any preliminary talks on this with President Yeltsin on the hotline before you issued that statement?

[Rutskoy] First, the day before we held a meeting of the collegium [not further identified]. Taking part were Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, deputy chairman of the government and acting government chairman; Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet; and chairmen of people's deputies' committees and commissions. We examined the results of the state commission, the one that was at work in South and North Ossetia. Taking part as well was Colonel General Kondratyev, deputy defense minister.

Regarding coordination of activities with the president and communications, Boris Yeltsin delegated to me as vice president the authority to act on these issues. There is a crisis situation not only within Russia but beyond its borders as well. I was given the authority to handle talks, to study these issues, and to draw up special proposals.

[Kiselev] But now Boris Nikolayevich is back from his visit. Has there been any reaction from him to the government's actions and your statement?

[Rutskoy] After his aircraft landed, Boris Nikolayevich and I held a little meeting. Boris Nikolayevich was told of everything regarding what we have been doing about all the issues that I mentioned. He gave his approval.

[Kiselev] How do you, the president, and the government view the fairly precise statements made by Shevardnadze and Snegur in response?

[Rutskoy] Regarding Shevardnadze's statement, first, it is important here that Eduard Amvrosyevich has finally admitted that it is not armed gangs in action there. It was widely claimed that these were bands of thugs or Gamsakhurdia supporters out of control and carrying out combat operations independently. In his statement he says absolutely clearly that helicopters of the Russian Air Force, with Russian Air Force markings—although we do not have any yet—attacked National Guard positions. This is what happened. There are recordings and filmed evidence, because we record combat missions by aircraft and helicopters. As you see, he right away started talking about aggression by Russia against sovereign Georgia. We will not tolerate this, he said. We will not put up with this; this is an open attack; and so on, he said.

[Kiselev] You mentioned international legal standards [venue not further identified]. Many foreign analysts are now pointing to the fairly tough and determined tone of your statement yesterday. For example, the Third Hague Convention says, and I quote, that a declaration of war may in form be very close to a preliminary or unambiguous warning or take the form of an ultimatum, unquote. Are you aware that your statement yesterday, which went out on television, could be interpreted in precisely this way?

[Rutskoy] You know, I would not interpret it in that way. I was addressing the citizens of the Russian Federation and people's deputies. I was addressing the citizens of the Commonwealth of Independent States and correspondingly its people's deputies, as well as the world community. I was addressing the United Nations and the UN Security Council, and was asking for some kind of reaction to this situation at long last.

[Kiselev] If the other side, Moldova or Georgia, reacted in precisely the way I mentioned, or if the events move toward a worst-case scenario, what worries me as an individual and not only as a journalist is whether Russia's leadership is willing to enter into a state of war with another republic.

[Rutskoy] In no way whatsoever. Let me ask you: For how long must we tolerate everything that is going on in relation to the Russian-speaking population in other republics where our citizens live, our fellow countrymen? For how long must we tolerate the fighting that was going on during the night in Bendery? Do you know that about 200 died and over 300 were wounded? The bodies of people killed in an absolutely foul fashion have been found. To me it is clear that this is no fight for sovereignty. This is not the resolution of a state's internal problems. Understand that nobody is entitled to say: Today I am sovereign and tomorrow I will begin to stab, kill, and shoot people.

[Kiselev] What is the end goal of your policy? Is it that we should protect our former fellow Soviet citizens within independent sovereign states? If we take this line to its conclusion, will we not go too far?

[Rutskoy] I do not think so. Understand that if we really want a commonwealth of friends [sodruzhestvo] and not of enemies [sovrazhestvo], then we have to implement the documents being signed at these summit meetings. Signing them just for show and then dispersing and not

putting them into effect will change nothing. I deliberately address the citizens of the Commonwealth of Independent States and political leaders. We have to get away from this old wives' talk of internal and external policy. There should be a clear and precise state policy—both internally and externally—based on the principles of mutual understanding.

[Kiselev] Thank you, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, for this interview.

Support for Statement Shown

LD2206083692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Reports issued by the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet and the Ministry of Security of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic on the situation in the Tskhinval zone are rather discouraging and alarmingly short. Heavy fighting continued last night between detachments of the Ossetian Guard and Georgian armed formations. The town is virtually in ruins. Over 80 percent of the houses and administrative buildings have been destroyed or burned down by high-explosive shells. All the important public utilities are damaged. South Ossetia's casualty list has swelled during the last 24 hours, with two people having been killed and seven wounded.

According to Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, the inhabitants of North and South Ossetia support the statements by the Russian Federation Government and by Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation. The North Ossetian leadership reaffirmed that the Ossetian-Georgian conflict will not be resolved by force. There must be an immediate cease-fire on both sides. Armed formations must be withdrawn from the Tskhinval zone and representatives of North and South Ossetia, Georgia and Russia must sit down around a negotiating table.

Government Urges Moldova To Halt Hostilites

LD2006193892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1927 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 20 TASS—Follows the text of the Russian Government statement:

According to the reports from the Dniester region, situation has sharply aggravated there. Moldovan Army units attacked the town of Bendery with the use of tanks and artillery.

Many civilians have been killed and wounded, the 14th Army units were put under non-provoked fire. There are losses among Army servicemen, some military were taken hostage.

We call the attention of CIS states and the entire international community that the recent Dniester events testify to the fact the Republic of Moldova tries to solve the complicated political conflict by exclusively means of force.

The dangerous outburst of the Dniester conflict may seriously destabilize the general situation in the region. It is clear the consequences of this cannot help worrying the Russian leadership, the more so [since] units of the Russian Army are located in the conflict zone.

The Government of the Russian Federation insistently calls on the Moldovan leadership to immediately stop all combat operations and it is ready to render comprehensive assistance to the peaceful settlement on the basis of negotiations.

Same is the call on the Dniester authorities. Peace will not come to Moldova on the way of military confrontation. It is extremely important now to show restraint, political will and responsibility before the people.

Forms Commission

LD2106114892 Moscow ITAR-TASS English 1041 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—The Russian Government has set up a commission to evaluate the situation in the Dniester Republic, with the consent of the presidium of the Russian parliament.

Russian Minister of Transport Vitaliy Yefimov was appointed chairman of the commission. The commission also includes member of the presidium of the Russian parliament Vladimir Podoprigora, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Anatoliy Kleymenov, chairman of the committee for the work with the personnel of the Allied Armed Forces Nikolay Stolyarov, chairman of the coordinating council of officers' conferences Aleksandr Mochaykin and officer of the main operational command Vasiliy Pshenitsin.

In accordance with the order of the cabinet, the commission is to report the results of its work on June 23.

Government Reacts to Illegal Acts Against Army

LD2106224292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The government of the Russian Federation has adopted a decision on measures to put a stop to illegal actions against the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. The decision says that if Army units, barracks, and other installations belonging to the Russian Armed Forces, as well as servicemen and members of their families, are subjected to unprovoked, armed attack, commensurate measures are to be taken to put a stop to these acts of aggression, in accordance with the right to self-defense. These measures include the right to fire on attackers.

Defense Minister Says Army Guarantor of Rights

LD2006204292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has stated that the Russian Army has to be a reliable guarantor of the freedom and independence of the citizens of our state. In an interview with the weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, he said that fate has decreed that Russians live and work throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union. They bear no hostility toward the other peoples inhabiting the independent states that have emerged in place of the USSR, and they have the same rights.

The minister said: I am convinced that, in the event of their human rights being infringed, let alone attempts on their lives, an adequate reaction from Russia is essential. He stressed that he opposes the army's being dragged into interethnic conflicts, but anyone who makes an attempt on the life of one of Russia's servicemen should know that he will receive a harsh rebuff, Grachev warned.

Kozyrev, Grachev Diverge on Border Issues

MK2006104592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 4

[Mikhail Shchipanov article under the "Hot Topic" rubric: "Do the Russians Want War?"]

[Text] Things in our country now are as in the West. There is a festive multiplicity of voices in the upper echelons of government. One minister says one thing, while another, correspondingly, says something different. Journalists, as in the civilized world, happily make conjectures. The president "remains indifferent," taking the role of the supreme arbiter. However, things are also said which cause "shivers down your spine," when it really is necessary to interpret and reinterpret again. The resolute defense minister, P. Grachev, is ready to defend the honor and dignity of Russians in any region by force of arms. Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev corrected, as it were, his cabinet colleague with the tact characteristic of his office: Boris Yeltsin remains our president and supreme commander in chief, he said, but Pavel Grachev is simply obliged, as his official duty, to keep his subordinates in good shape and not allow them to become enfeebled as they await an order at "Zero" hour.

But we have been reassured from Smolenskaya Ploshchad [Foreign Ministry] with the arrival of the latest issue of the influential Paris newspaper LE MONDE, in which A. Kozyrev himself admitted the possibility of an amicable redrawing of the Russian-Ukrainian borders: There would be the goodwill of the sides, he said, and borders with posts are not dogma. Following Grachev's warning, maybe it will be still easier to reach an amicable agreement with Ukraine?

Joking aside, however, it is the duty of any responsible state to defend the dignity and the very lives of its citizens. The French sent landing forces into black Africa a countless number of times, as soon as the shadow of another coup and rebellion fell upon the destinies of the Gauls resident in equatorial latitudes. In recent years U.S. rangers have twice landed with weapons in Panama and Haiti to "protect the lives of U.S. citizens." At any rate, this was the official pretext for launching military operations. Even now the Philippines, in whose expanses 5,000 Americans have outstayed their welcome, features on the list of potential theaters of armed conflicts published by the Pentagon.

Naturally, it is more than dangerous to flex military muscles in the nonunified space of our national mosaic. Particularly as in the present bad situation it really is hard to see a corner "where the Russian guy is not suffering." As well as the Tatar, Kazakh, or Ukrainian guy, incidentally. It is another matter that, in concluding defense agreements with the former Soviet republics, Russia assumes pledges to defend the Slav population resident there against any foreign aggression. The Russian "nuclear umbrella" is opened over it. For the local authorities the "settled" Slav population in turn serves as the best argument in favor of ensuring that Moscow will not renounce its adopted pledges. A "triple alliance" is emerging, as it were, to include Russia, the new states, and the communities of our compatriots, in which all the sides must know and respect mutual rights and duties.

If we proceed from this concept, the plans to create a Russian rapid reaction force (following the example of the United States, France, and Spain)—plans which have given rise to so many "crafty" questions—fit perfectly within the mobile defense system and serve as confirmation of the earnestness of the security guarantees given to a number of former fraternal and now allied republics.

Democratic Parties Form Civil Union Bloc

LD2106201592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 21 TASS—The People's Party Free Russia, the Democratic Party of Russia, the All-Russia Union "Renovation," the parliamentary faction "Smena-New Politics" and several youth organizations have created a new political block on Sunday [21 June] called Civic Union.

Its leaders said the Civic Union is "a union of constructive forces which are able both to propose and implement ideas and which are oriented towards stability and order."

The union may become a powerful political force in Russia as it has comprised influential democratic movements led by Russian Vice- President Aleksandr

Rutskoy, Nikolay Travkin and Arkadiy Volskiy, head of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurship.

The union aims to cooperate with the Government and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to carry out reforms in Russia. At the same time, there is no unanimity among its members on the course of reforms. Travkin said his party is in "constructive opposition" to the president but has no plans to "remove the government and the president." Instead it wants them to make certain adjustments in their policy.

Volskiy, in turn, criticised the reform plan and called for urgent measures to stop the production decline in Russia. At the same time, he described reports that he is developing an "anti-Gaydar" programme and forming a "shadow" cabinet as "insinuations."

Rutskoy stressed the need for an alternative reform programme, the basis of which has already been developed by Civic Union experts. He said, however, it is not an opposition programme, but a "programme of assistance to the president and the government."

Unlike his colleagues, Igor Muravyev, leader of the faction "Smena-New Politics" lashed out at the government and the president, calling them "the main destabilising factor." He said the president has been elected for five years and "we will have to bear this burden" forcing the authorities to "begin doing something for people."

Rutskoy Addresses Group

LD2106203992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1144 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 21 June TASS—"Constructive changes" have taken place in the government recently but the crisis is exacerbating. There is not a clear plan of reforms in Russia. Therefore, an alternative scientifically grounded program of reforms must be worked out, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy thinks.

The vice president, as leader of the People's Party of Free Russia, addressed the forum of the sociopolitical Civil Union bloc today. The Democratic Party of Russia, the All-Russian Union of Renewal, and a number of parliamentary factions and youth organizations have joined the bloc in addition to the People's Party of Free Russia.

In the opinion of Aleksandr Rutskoy, the government adopted the correct decision to create operational services for managing vitally important sectors and groups for accompanying the reforms, supervising [kontrol], and implementing them. Speaking of the latest appointments in the cabinet, the vice president stated that "specialists and practical workers and people with a high level of responsibility are joining the leadership."

Aleksandr Rutskoy noted that "the political and economic crisis in Russia is continuing to deepen and the prestige of executive and legislative power is falling in the eyes of the people." Macroeconomic regulation has not yielded positive effects, production is continuing to fall, and the most dangerous situation has evolved in the base sectors. If the reforms continue to progress at the same rates and using the same methods, then the people may very soon renounce confidence in the present authorities, the vice president stated. In his opinion, it would be deception to say that there will be substantial improvement in a few months.

The political instability in Russia is also promoted by the fact that "the Commonwealth virtually has not evolved on the basis of the CIS."

The vice president of Russia sharply criticized the actions of the authorities of Moldova in the Dniester region and of Georgia in South Ossetia. In his words, "The overt genocide with regard to South Ossetia received the blessing of one of the creators of perestroyka"—Eduard Shevardnadze. "Sooner or later, the genocide and the blood which has been shed will have to be answered for," Aleksandr Rutskoy said to rapturous applause from people in the auditorium.

The leader of the People's Party of Free Russia reported that the Civil Union, as a bloc of constructive sociopolitical forces, is carrying out work on a reform program which may be supported by the people. "There is no need to fear that somebody may call it an alternative reform program to the government or a program of the opposition. I think that this is not the case," he stated. In the opinion of Aleksandr Rutskoy, it will be "a program to aid the president and the government."

Warns of Coming Food Crisis

OW2106172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, speaking Sunday [21 June] at a constituent forum of the movement "Civil Union" warned that Russia may be threatened with a severe food crisis in several months. Until now, peasants are being robbed of their possessions. The vice-president said that a Saturday sitting of the government took decisions on harvesting. A harvesting-control center will be set up, and the hard currency the government owes the peasants for the 1991 harvest and a 50 percent credit for this year's harvest will be paid.

Rutskoy expressed concern with a deteriorating crisis of political power and a sharp polarization of forces. The social forces that are clamoring openly for a coup are increasingly visible. According to Rutskoy, if the reforms proceed in this manner, the masses may soon turn their back on the current leaders.

Fortunately, said the vice-president, "currently sober-minded people without ambitions who have an experience of practical work, are coming to power" (he spoke of recent appointments). The new vice-premier, Vladimir Shumeyko, said that, among other things, a presidential decree has been prepared which mandates that all industrial enterprises must issue stock covering 100 percent of their assets.

Speaking of the CIS, Rutskoy said that the Commonwealth is quite a frail creation. Nationalistic and separatist forces are consolidating their positions. The former Union republics refuse to meet their obligations, though they receive 90 percent of their energy from Russia and Russia accounts for 70 percent of their trade.

Views Inter-CIS Conflicts, Moldova

OW2106175492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A forum of the movement Civil Union, composed of the Russian Democratic Party (leader Nikolay Travkin), Popular Party Free Russia (founder, current president Aleksandr Rutskoy) and the Russian union Obnovleniye (leaders A. Volskiy and A. Vladislavlev). [incomplete sentence as received]

Board Chairman of the Free Russia Vasiliy Lipitskiy described the new association as a centrist political force.

Speaking at the press-conference on the results of the forum, Rutskoy said that for over 1.5 months he has been officially working on a policy of the Russian state in conflict situations concerning Russia's interests in CIS countries. According to him, a governmental commission was set up for a comprehensive study of the problem, with representatives from the Parliament.

President Yeltsin recommended to act "in a reserved, weighty manner, using political methods," said Rutskoy. The commission has competence to establish communications with the leaders of the CIS countries whose interests are affected by the conflict to ensure its rapid and civilized settlement. But this is not always possible. For example, the Russian state delegation that arrived in Moldova has been in the Chisinau airport for 14 hours, and "nobody is willing to talk with it," said Rutskoy.

Asked by IF [INTERFAX], Rutskoy said that following new appointments to the government he "found common ground with the cabinet on implementation of land and agroindustrial reforms and on the need to take urgent measures to bring in the harvest." Specifically, on June 22 an operational center for bringing in the harvest will be set up. On June 24 Rutskoy will talk with the Russian President on the creation of another vice-premiership for agriculture on Russian government.

President of the Russian Alliance of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy said at the press-conference that the alliance had established a commission of experts who are working on measures to adjust the course of the economic reform being held in the country. One of the executives responsible for the reform is Professor Yevgeniy Yasin.

Protests Continue at Ostankino TV Center

Part of Square Declared USSR

LD2006171692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Now here is news from the Ostankino siege. The participants in the continuing picket near the Ostankino Television tower in Moscow declared this morning that part of the square was the liberated land of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In a declaration adopted at the rally, they appealed to the world community to recognize the validity of their wishes. The declaration also underlines that, because of the danger of an attack by special purpose militia detachment, the picketers are ready to defend the liberated territory with all means, including armed resistance.

In an interview with INTERFAX, Georgiy Gusev, a member of the council of opposition forces set up during the picketing, has declared that those participating in the siege of Ostankino have no weapons, but they are ready to use anything at hand to defend themselves.

According to Major Ivan Yekaterinichev, deputy head of the 158th militia department, the militia has fulfilled its duty by forcing the picketers away from the building of the television center and does not intend to take any other measures.

At a news conference held near the television tower, Viktor Anpilov, leader of the Working Russia movement, who was elected acting head of the liberated territory, said that the participants in the protest action will conduct further negotiations with the Moscow leadership at a state level only.

In connection with that, it is appropriate to reiterate the Moscow Government statement signed by Mayor Luzhkov. It states that the documentary evidence of slogans and declarations used during picketing shows that they insult the honor and pride of the president of the Russian Federation. They may also be used to fuel national and religious hatred. Because of that and also because Working Russia intends to hold an illegal rally on 22 June, the Moscow Government warns that, if necessary, it will take all necessary measures to prevent the rally and will reconsider the possibility of any further picketing of the Ostankino Television center.

Rutskoy Comments

LD2106215692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Interview with Russian Vice President A.V. Rutskoy by anchorman Yevgeniy Kiselev; from the "Itogi" newscast—live]

[Text] [Kiselev] Television journalists and all media people are highly concerned about the policy being carried out over the past two weeks by the so-called red and brown opposition, meaning the demonstrators at the Ostankino television center. We feel that this amounts to direct pressure on the media and an attempt to limit journalists' freedom of speech. We are also worried about the authorities' inactivity, which we witnessed up to yesterday, or the day before yesterday. How do you assess this?

[Rutskoy] Working Russia, Working Moscow. Pity you did not take any close-ups of these people.

[Kiselev] We did, in fact.

[Rutskoy] Then show them. Let the viewers take a look at the kind of state they are in and what kind of working people they are. All these events were taking place around Ostankino on working days and during working time. Regarding those who are preparing to continue this war, those who are preparing to continue insulting people, I am not going to do here what they did to presenters, women, and the television workers. If you will excuse me, it would not be right on the air to....

[Kiselev, interrupting] Not only to journalists. We also have engineers, technicians, and workmen here in Ostankino, people from all social categories. Can they be sure that the authorities will protect them?

[Rutskoy] Now—yes.

Five Reportedly Killed

LD2206110892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS-KRIMPRESS correspondents Aleksandr Krasulin and Yuriy Soltys]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jun—The central building of Moscow's Ostankino Television center has been surrounded by militia motor vehicles, buses, trucks, and fire trucks with water canons. All approaches to the building are controlled by numerous militia patrols and the entrances to the premises are guarded by armed OMON [special purpose militia detachment] fighters. In this way the Moscow law enforcment bodies are preparing for the all-Russian opposition rally which is planned for this evening, despite the ban by the authorities.

A camp pitched by representatives of communist- and patriotic-oriented opposition parties who picketed the television center was in place near Ostankino since 12 June until last night. There are no pickets there today. On the site where their camp was pitched the grass has been washed clean by watering vehicles; police dogs are tied to trees.

Small groups of elderly people, some of whom are wearing military awards for their participation in the Great Patriotic War, are gathering at the approaches to the television center and condemning indignantly the events of last night. In their words, at 0400 today, OMON fighters descended upon the sleeping people and beat them with rubber truncheons. As a result, the pickets say, five people were killed and many were injured.

However, a senior officer of the law enforcement bodies refuted their allegations. "This information does not correspond to reality," he said. "None of them was even taken away in an ambulance."

Viktor Maksimov, chief doctor of the emergency service's operational department, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that medical assistance was given to two participants in the Ostankino rally during the night. In one case, a burn from a camp fire was registered, and in another, a contusion. Both casualties were taken to the Sklifosovskiy Institute clinic.

Moscow Procurator Warns Against Rally

LD2006205892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A rally of veterans at Moscow's Manezh Square is planned for 22 June, the day marking the beginning of the Great Patriotic War. Apart from that, unofficial Communist organizations are calling on people to assemble at a rally, which has not been sanctioned by anyone, here at Ostankino. Moscow's procurator general assures us that he will follow the letter of the law, even if that isn't to the liking of the neo-communists.

[Begin recording] [G.S. Ponomarev, Moscow city procurator] I don't have any information that the organizers calling people to assemble at the Television Center on 22 June have made an application, as provided for by the legislation in force, to the leaders of the city asking for their agreement and for the provision of appropriate conditions for people's safety.

But since we also have information that such leaflets are being distributed, both in Moscow and beyond, and people may really respond to these calls, I would like to warn the organizers that they are assuming a very great responsibility in violating the law and in not creating the conditions for public law and order and for safety. If on 22 June people really do begin to fight near the Television Center, I think that the forces for protecting law and

order, the city authorities, will be obliged to take adequate measures to uphold public law and order and not to permit sanctioned [as heard] assemblies of people.

That is unfortunate, but that is what has to be done according to the law. [end recording]

Commentary on Ostankino 'Opposition'

LD2206092492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Vyacheslav Osipov commentary]

[Excerpt] We now return to the Russian capital. Passions are still raging here near the Ostankino TV center. National Communist patriots have refused to strike camp and, red flags waving overhead, are continuing to shout insults about the country's leadership and all those working in the television and radio complex. We would like to draw your attention to the following circumstance: The protesters, headed by Russian Communist Workers Party leader Anpilov and retired KGB General Sterligov, are demanding live television airtime and have declared that they represent the opposition—opposition to the government, opposition to the president, opposition to everything connected with the reforms currently being carried out.

Can one really rank all these characters in the category of an opposition? This is by no means a rhetorical question. Over to my colleague Vyacheslav Osipov:

[Osipov] If one proceeds from the definition of the word opposition as counteraction or resistance to a policy, then the speakers at the Ostankino rally can be put into the category of members of the opposition. But if one looks at it from that viewpoint alone, then anyone screaming himself hoarse about government venality could count himself as a member of the opposition, as could anyone standing in a subway quiet as a mouse, holding a placard proclaiming Down With Yeltsin.

To judge from the announcements about holding a rally at Ostankino—which were signed not by parties and movements but by an initiative group of citizens—all those who managed to assemble on 12 June declared themselves to be in the opposition. Retired KGB Gen. Sterligov is turning into a vehement opponent of the Russian Federation Government, the same Gen. Sterligov who, before his election as cochairman of the Russian National Assembly, was perhaps exerting efforts to destroy all forms of divergent thought, to say nothing of the opposition.

Both past and present Communists regard themselves as members of the opposition—Isakov, Baburin, and Anpilov—evidently forgetting that they became people's deputies of Russia and Moscow precisely due to the democratic wave of opposition to the approved Communist candidates in the 1990 elections. It is astonishing how the inveterate communist dogmatist Anpilov can find a common language in an alleged opposition group with Nevzorov, who shuns everything communist! The same thing could be said of Astafyev, Aksyuchits, and other party leaders who are now proudly standing up to the oppositionists.

Let us point out here that many people like this pieced together an opposition when they made their way into the structures of power, the representative executive powers and management posts. Unfortunately, there have not yet been alternative elections on Russian Federation soil today, when one party is opposed to another and an opposition to the ruling majority has genuinely formed. That time is yet to come. Those demanding live airtime well understand that excellent use can be made of the popular word opposition to channel the discontented—and they always exist—how they want to; in this case, to use the popular voice to demand a response from the television directors.

But where are the civilized means, the constitutional rights, the universally accepted deputies mandates? Or have they also decided to go into opposition themselves in their own way? It is sad, but there are more and more obvious cases where not only human communications but also the criminal code are being violated in this fashion. [passage omitted]

Christian Democrats Demand Government's Resignation

OW2006172992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Christian-Democratic Movement has demanded today, Saturday [20 June], at its current congress in Moscow "a resignation of the President and the government who have let down their electorate". The delegates find that the government has taken positions "which threaten with a disintegration of the Russian state, a weakening of its security, and a collapse of its economy". The movement demands, therefore, an early presidential election in the Russian Federation and forming a government of national accord.

Elect Aksyuchits Chairman

OW2106144892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first sobor [assembly] of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement closed in Moscow, which was attended by 240 delegates representing 48 Russian cities and regions. Viktor Aksyuchits was elected the party chairman.

According to Aksyuchits, a change of government is likely in the coming months, and his party plans to take an active part in the fight for power. Asked by IF [INTERFAX] about his party's actions in this situation,

he said that it planned to pull together with other "healthy political forces" to set up a "popular trust government."

He said that now his chief opponents are leftist radical political forces that have a monopoly on power and the mass media. In the near future the party leader sees nationalistic opposition and the extreme left forces as emerging rivals.

Democratic Factions Warn of 'Fascist Overthrow'

OW1906164092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The coordinators of the democratic factions in the Russian Parliament warned of the threat of "a Fascist overthrow" in Russia.

At a press conference Friday [19 June] in Moscow a deputy Aleksey Surkov said that among the main reasons of such a threat is the tough course of reform, "dominant influence of the former party's nomenclature in the Supreme Soviet" which hinders economic transformations, and "insipidities" of the security service, Internal Ministry, and Prosecutor's office' bodies. According to Surkov, "Russia is not a democratic but post-communist state, as reactionaries prevail in all structures of representative power".

Deputy Viktor Sheynis qualified as "a Black-Hundreds Sabbath" the meeting and picketing organized by the opposition near "Ostankino" TV center. He noticed that those gathered there appeal for a forced overthrow of the legal authorities. "These appeals are especially dangerous when they address not only a hooligan crowd but the military, and the employees of the law enforcement structures as well", said the deputy.

According to deputy Lev Ponomarev, the democrats are going to held a meeting in support of reforms in Manezh Square or at "Ostankino" on June 28. He expressed his hope saying that "a great number of our supporters—totalling 100 thousand people are to take part in this action".

Democratic Reform Movement Holds on Assembly

OW2106183592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Political Council of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement [RDRM] meeting on Saturday [20 June] approved a compromise proposal by its leader Gavriil Popov, that the constituent assembly designed to adopt Russia's new constitution must be made up of candidates nominated by government structures and public groups instead of being elected.

The Council had also agreed to hold talks and consultations with Sergey Shakhray to work out a common draft constitution.

RDRM leaders reached agreement with independent Unity trade unions on joint election campaigns and single candidates. Unity is an umbrella organisation of Russian entrepreneurs of 2.5 million members wielding influence in 52 regions of Russia.

On the recent leakage of Rbl [rubles] 24 bln [billion] from Russia's Central Bank to the Chechen republic, RDRM officials blamed it on the absence of control by the planning and budgetary commission of the Russian Parliament. Repeated warnings and attempts to check the Bank's operations were brushed aside by the Speaker of the Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov. They pointed to the ongoing campaign for a cover up and deflecting public attention.

In a final communique, the Council says it will prepare a special statement on the issue suggesting that several investigation teams must be set up while Khasbulatov and the president of the Bank, Georgiy Matyukhin, must either resign or go on leave to be unable to influence the results of the findings.

The Council meeting was presided by Gavriil Popov.

Communists of Russia Condemn CPSU Plenum

LD2206080392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1258 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Shevel and Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Jun—The parliamentary party "Communists of Russia" considers that the recent plenum of the CPSU Central Committee was without authority [nepolnomochnyy]. In a statement issued today the party says the "so-called plenum" was held contrary to the charter of the CPSU and "cannot be counted as an action of the Party and its leading organs".

In conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, party cochairman Ivan Rybkin said a plenum of the CPSU Central Committee can only be held after the constitutional court has taken a decision on the case of the CPSU.

As reported earlier, the "plenum of the CPSU Central Committee" held on 13 June was originally conceived as a conference of Central Committee members, but during its work the decision was made to raise the event's status.

Also today, members of the initiative group on holding the plenum gave a news conference. They argued that the plenum was competent, as were its decisions to convene a conference of the CPSU and expel Mikhail Gorbachev from the party. One member of the group, Konstantin Nikolayev, declared that he had information that "some 6 million Communists agree" with the plenum's decisions.

'No Confidence' in Yeltsin, Government Declared

PM2206095992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 2

["Own information" report: "President and His Team Indicted"]

[Text] Seventeen Russian Federation people's deputies have declared no confidence in B. Yeltsin and the Russian Government.

S. Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, sent the 17 people's deputies' statement for preliminary analysis in the committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet. This document claims that "the policy of the Russian president and the cabinet he heads has brought the republic to the brink of national catastrophe."

In their statement the people's deputies, who include V. Aksyuchits, M. Astafyev, S. Baburin, Yu. Sidorenko, M. Chelnokov, and others, put forward two basic demands.

First, that examination of the question "of confidence in the government" be included on the agenda of a session of the Supreme Soviet and examined immediately with the aim of dismissing the government for unprecedented blunders in internal and external policy and sabotaging the decisions of the Supreme Soviet and congress.

Second, that a petition be submitted to the Constitutional Court calling for the president of the Russian Federation to be dismissed from his post for betraying Russia's national interests and committing numerous violations of the Constitution, laws, and his presidential oath.

Deputies Urge Release of Coup Participants

LD2106153492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1710 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—A group of People's Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation asked on June 18 General Prosecutor of the Russian Federation Valentin Stepankov to change the conditions of custody, and to release those arrested in connection with the coup attempt in August, 1991.

The declaration was signed by 18 people's deputies of the Russian Federation, including Sergey Baburin, Aleksey Ponomarev, Boris Tarasov, Viktor Zorkaltsev, Ivan Savchenko, Yuriy Slobodkin, Dmitriy Stepanov this was told by the chief of the Socialist Workers' Party Gennadiy Kobyakov.

Commentator Fears Repetition of August Coup

PM1906191592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Otto Latsis: "Who Is Threatening Us With Civil War"]

[Text] War has been declared. Here are just some of the communiques for a single day, 18 June. According to IMA-PRESS, Deputy Nikolay Pavlov, coordinator of the "Russian Unity" bloc, has declared that for the moment (!) he is not calling on people to violate the constitution, but he warns that if the Supreme Soviet ratifies the agreement that President B. Yeltsin has just signed in Washington, "an armed struggle against this criminal antipeople regime will begin in our country." Pavlov explained: "Tomorrow what the modest intellectual and journalist Anpilov is doing at Ostankino will seem like a children's game."

There is no need to describe the "children's games" at Ostankino: Television has shown them. On the evening of 18 June on the Central Television news program Deputy Sergey Baburin (another of those who complains of having no access to the TV screen) threatened the government with civil war. Then on "600 Seconds" Aleksandr Sterligov, cochairman of the Duma of the Russian Assembly, promised quite unambiguously in conversation with Aleksandr Nevzorov to use force in the struggle for power and described the potential he has, being a former KGB general.

The list of similar reports from that single day could be continued. The threats and calls, including the call for another rally at Ostankino (they had the gall to use 22 June, the day of public grief, as the occasion for it) are based on the experience of past illegal actions—from the frenzied violence outside the TV center to the proclamation of a gathering of a group of CPSU Central Committee members to be a "plenum," which is in itself a challenge to presidential authority regardless of what decisions the Constitutional Court eventually reaches on the decrees in question.

These threats and calls are also based on a carefully elaborated and widely propagandized ideology—a typical sample of the propaganda was PRAVDA's account of the report delivered by A. Sterligov at the Russian National Assembly Congress. The content of Sterligov's ideas (there is nothing new in them, incidentally) are a separate topic. The vocabulary in which he couches his views of the present authorities ("a shameless bunch," "like carrion crows," "an antinational government") has long been familiar and has ceased to shock. But the proclaimed mechanism for the projected coup is worth noting: A committee for the national salvation of Russia and territorial committees are to be created. The bits of padding around the idea of creating the unconstitutional organ of power (it is proposed that the Supreme Soviet create it and it is even proposed that the president be left with "administrative authority," for cosmetic purposes)

do not change the essence of the matter: The idea of the State Committee for the State of Emergency is reproduced in its entirety.

A repetition of the failed attack is being prepared before our very eyes—just as the ideas of a state of emergency, bolstered by threats of "chaos" and civil war, were rehearsed at various plenums and tried out in various places over the few months before the August putsch. And alas, the law is again remaining silent in the face of manifestly anticonstitutional activity. What are the people whose official duty it is to defend legality and order hoping? That unarmed people will again lie down in front of armored vehicles? (That too is no conjecture on my part; Sterligov's report contains an appeal to officers.) Those are dangerous calculations. That is dangerous complacency.

Yeltsin Signs Decree Protecting Monetary System

LD2106201292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on measures to protect Russia's monetary system. The government, together with the Russian bank, are to hold talks within two months on carrying out coordinated economic policy measures with states wishing to preserve Russia's monetary unit, the ruble, on their territory as the legitimate means of payment.

First Deputy Finance Minister Comments

LD2106212392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jun—"The decree on the partial change in the procedure of the compulsory sale of part of the currency earnings by enterprises in no way encroaches upon the interests of the exporters themselves, nor of enterprises, including joint enterprises," Andrey Vavilov, first deputy finance minister of Russia, stated today in an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS.

He recalled that a single unified ruble-foreign currency exchange rate in all day-to-day operations is being introduced by decree. "This is one of the main conditions of the introduction of the convertibility of the ruble," Andrey Vavilov stressed, having explained that the numerous special rates are being abolished and a single market rate formed on the banking currency market is being used instead. It is envisioned also that all exporters will be obliged to sell on the market rate 50 percent of their currency earnings, which they can always buy back from the state again at the market rate if they desire. "This has been done to ensure that all enterprises and organizations use only our national currency inside Russia for payments," the deputy minister noted.

Andrey Vavilov stressed that the doubts that have arisen in a number of committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet of Russia in connection with the claim that this decree allegedly violates the law on foreign investment have no real foundation. The latter contains an article under which the currency earnings of joint enterprises should remain fully at their disposal. Under the same decree, joint enterprises, like other enterprises, are obliged to sell 50 percent of their currency earnings. "There will not be any taking away of currency from joint enterprises; there is simply a change in the form of preserving their earnings in rubles instead of in currency," the deputy minister stated. He noted also that under the decree all enterprises and organizations on the territory of Russia are placed under unified conditions of management, and that common "rules of the game" are being introduced for them.

He expressed the hope that when parliamentary bodies examine this question on Monday the deputies will adopt a decision not to represent this presidential decree at the Supreme Soviet session as allegedly contradicting legislation. "If that does not happen, the circulation of foreign currency on our territory may be virtually legitimized," the deputy minister added.

Andrey Vavilov also evaluated very highly from the point of view of strengthening the ruble the decree signed today by Boris Yeltsin on measures to protect the monetary system of the Russian Federation, "under which Russia is going over to payments with the republics of the former USSR to world standards and the single ruble zone virtually is eliminated."

"The decree also allows the Central Bank of Russia to establish clearing relations with other republics of the former Union. This is our reply to those steps which Ukraine and other states have taken recently on credit emissions. If Russia did not take responsive measures, then in the next few months all our goods would be swept off our national market. Today's decree is an extremely important measure to strengthen the ruble," the deputy minster stated.

Decree on Strategic Export Regulations Issued

PM2206084792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 92 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 628 of the Russian Federation president "On the Procedure for Exporting Strategically Important Raw Materials," dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 14 June 1992 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] To protect Russia's economic interests, prevent the unlawful placing of foreign currency earnings abroad, and stop unwarranted competition between Russian enterprises on the foreign market, I resolve:

1. It is to be established that, beginning 1 July 1992, the export of strategically important raw materials, a list of which is to be approved by decisions of the Russian

Federation Government, is to be conducted by enterprises and organizations registered by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations for this purpose.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, together with the Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures and other interested Russian Federation ministries and departments, is to approve by 25 June 1992 a statute on the procedure for registering enterprises and organizations entitled to export strategically important raw materials.

Foreign trade and brokerage organizations registered with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations in line with the said statute are to conclude contracts to carry out brokering export operations on commission terms set by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations in agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, the Russian Federation Economy Ministry, and the Russian Federation Finance Ministry.

3. Enterprises and organizations registered with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations in line with the present decree are to pay export duty and sell foreign currency for export operations with strategically important raw materials only through bank clearing accounts declared by them at the time of registration.

4. It is to be established that organizations which have obtained the right to export strategically important raw materials and which subsequently infringe the procedure laid down for exporting the said products under the present decree are to be stripped of their right to conduct brokerage operations with these goods for a period of up to one year by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

5. Beginning 1 September 1992 the Russian Federation State Customs Committee is to permit the export of strategically important raw materials from Russian Federation territory only under contracts signed by enterprises and organizations registered with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations in line with the present decree.

Exports of strategically important raw materials supplied under contracts concluded prior to the adoption of the present decree, the fulfillment of whose obligations have already been started by the parties involved, are to be fulfilled in their entirety.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, in agreement with the Russian Federation Economy Ministry, the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, the Russian Federation Industry Ministry, the Russian Federation Fuel and Power Ministry, the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, and the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member States, are to submit proposals within a month to the Russian Federation Government on the procedure for exporting goods to CIS member states in the second half of 1992 on the basis of the statutes of the present decree and taking into account existing intergovernmental agreements with these countries.

7. The Russian Federation Government is to approve within 10 days a list of strategically important raw materials whose export is to be carried out by enterprises and organizations registered by the Russian Federation Ministry of Economic Relations.

Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
Moscow, the Kremlin
14 June 1992
No. 628

Latest Government Appointments Announced

PM2206085592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By decree of the president of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr Vasilyevich Tumanov has been appointed chief of the Russian Federation Main Administration for Special Construction.

By decree of the president of the Russian Federation, Major General Mikhail Ivanovich Barsukov has been appointed chief of the Main Directorate for the Protection of the Russian Federation and commandant of the Moscow Kremlin; he has been released from his duties as deputy chief of the Main Directorate for the Protection of the Russian Federation and deputy commandant of the Moscow Kremlin.

By decree of the president of the Russian Federation, Colonel Valeriy Yuryevich Kuzmin has been appointed deputy chief of the Main Directorate for the Protection of the Russian Federation.

By decree of the president of the Russian Federation, the exercise of the duties of chairman of the government of the Russian Federation has been vested in Yegor Timurovich Gaydar.

Problems in Scrapping Decommissioned Submarines

PM2206100992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by correspondent V. Karkavtsev: "Where Submarines Are Going"]

[Text] Arkhangelsk—They come here after honestly serving for the allotted time, having worked in full the allotted number of watches, subwatches [podvakhty], dives, surfacings, and firing practice sessions. With difficulty they find a place at the dock wall and quietly die there, no longer of any use to anyone.

This is Severodvinsk—a city which delighted the Russian president six weeks ago. He was taken on a tour of the building slips where the nuclear-powered vessels are born and he was shown our naval might. I do not know whether he visited the dock where the submarines die.

Twenty years ago, the mission was simple—catching up with and overtaking those self-confident Yanks in terms of the number of nuclear-powered submarines. The industrious workers of Severodvinsk replied: "We shall try." And they began to put together four nuclear-powered vessels a year. The Americans could not even dream of such a pace. At the time no one thought seriously about what to do with the vessels when they were "demobilized."

The frigate Svyatoy Pavel, launched under the supervision of Peter I from the Arkhangelsk slips, served Russia 31 years. The American battleships of the Iowa class which were launched in 1943 only recently tamed Iraq with their main battery. Our submarines have been allowed a painfully short time—20 years. Why?

"It is very simple," the specialists enlighten me. "Our 'Georges' (of the type of the ship the George Washington—V.K.) could have gone on and on. But they thought up a new missile, which did not fit into the silo. And they began to invent a new series of nuclear submarines. The Americans were more cunning than us: The silos on their old submarines were planned 'for growth.'"

Well, hindsight is always 20-20. But what are we to do with these assets now? After all, the overwhelming majority of the "old ladies" are standing at the dock with the active area still in place. Or to put it more simply, with the reactors in place. On each of them is a crew; they are in need of annual drydocking and a supply of fresh water, steam, electricity, and air under high and low pressure... This is indeed a case of a suitcase without a handle—you are sad to throw it out but you do not have the strength to drag it.

For N. Kalistratov, director of the "Zvezdochka" enterprise, the matter is quite clear: Those "articles" which can be modernized should be immediately sent to be modernized. And the rest should be sent for scrap. The reasoning here is simple. Building a new submarine is a pleasure which costs 4 billion rubles. Putting an old one in order is four times less. As for salvaging... On the world market a tonne of packed scrap metal is valued at $200. And about 5,000 tonnes can be removed from one submarine. In addition to the equipment, there are spare parts, tools, and accessories, and kilometers of cable in short supply.

To get this project going the enterprise needs money. Some of the technology will have to be bought abroad. But the coffers are empty: How can there be any capital investments when there is nothing to pay the shipbuilders' wages and the electricity is being cut off?

So far they are not on strike here. And they are putting their intellect not into compiling anti-Gaydar resolutions but into searching for advantageous partners and bold commercial projects. But it is increasingly hard to hold on to rated specialists: The defense industry is no longer being given the carrots which used to keep people.

The president has been and gone but the Severodvinsk workers are left with their problems.

Productivity Off 13.2 Percent in Early 1992

OW2106192492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1706 GMT 21 Jun 92

["Cover Story" from the 22 June "Business Report": "Russian Productivity Drops 13.2%, Volumes of Oil and Gas Extracted Continue To Fall"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian state committee for statistics (Goskomstat) in a special report to parliament and the government has shown that industrial productivity in the republic dropped by 13.2% during the first five months of 1992. In May alone, in comparison with the same period last year, productivity dropped by 15%.

The situation is most critical in the oil and oil product industries, production of steel pipes, mineral fertilizer, chemical filaments and threads and construction materials. The volumes of food products and oil drilled continue to fall.

Goskomstat experts note that continuing productivity drops are caused by the breakdown of business ties, a resource imbalance in production and the growing insolvency of enterprises, (as of the middle of June, enterprises were over 2 bn [billion] rubles in debt). Goskomstat claims that 38 bn rubles worth of goods from industrial enterprises did not reach consumers during the January through May period in 1992.

Volumes of Oil Drilled Continue To Fall

The amount of oil drilled at Russian deposits continues to fall at a rapid rate. During March 1992 the average amount of oil drilled daily in Russia dropped in comparison with January by 1%, in April by 2% and in May by 4%. On the whole, according to Goskomstat, 169 mn [million] tons [as received] of oil were extracted in the Russian Federation during the first five months of the year. This is 13% less than the amount drilled in the same period of 1991. The drop in drilling activity is felt at oil refineries: during January through May this year 5% less gasoline was produced and 8% less fuel oil and diesel fuel was made than during the corresponding period last year.

The Russian Economics Ministry's center for prognostics estimates the possible level of oil drilled in Russia for the first half of 1992 at 204 mn tons, which would be 93% of the level drilled in the first half of 1991.

Coal levels have remained practically unchanged in comparison with last year, but the amount of coking coal

mined has actually grown by 10%. Goskomstat specialists point out, however, that the volume of coal mined last year was the lowest amount in the past three or four years.

Average Daily Volumes of Extracted Gas Fall

Signs of sluggishness in the relatively stable gas extracting industry only became apparent this spring. In April, the daily average amount of gas extracted began to fall at the primary gas extracting associations in Western Siberia.

In April 1992 gas productivity dropped by 2% and in May by 6%. Specialists from the Russian Ministry of Industry are predicting that if this negative tendency continues in the branch and President Yeltsin does not soon decide to allot credits to the gas extracting branch of $8.7 bn, Russia will be unable to meet its plan for 32 bn cubic meters of gas extracted in the first half year of 1992.

Metallurgical Combines Stop Producing Pipes and Rolled Metals

The productivity drop in metallurgy has caused 25 steel smelting furnaces at large combines to close down. For the first five months of the year, production of pipes has dropped by 26% and only 20.9 bn tons of finished rolled steel were produced.

The Volgograd Metallurgic factory Krasnyy Oktyabr's rolled steel production is down by 34%, the Western Siberian metallurgic combine's production is down 22%, and the Zlatoustovsk Metallurgic factory's output of rolled steel is down by 52%. These enterprises are responsible for one quarter of the total drop in production of rolled steel.

Pipe production has dropped most of all; in May 1992 production fell by 25% as compared to May 1991.

Machine Building Cuts Output of Motors and Agricultural Equipment

Enterprises in Russia's machine building complex have more or less been able to maintain an acceptable productivity level. However, in comparison with the first five months of last year, from January to May 1992 Russia's machine building complex sharply reduced its daily production of electric motors, cars and road and agricultural equipment.

In particular, production of small electric motors, metal cutting stations, cranes and trailers dropped by 14-22%. Production of grain harvesters and tractors fell by 28-37%. Output of diesel and electric locomotives is also falling.

Freight container construction was only at 80% of last year's level.

Chemical Industry and Producers of Construction Materials Are Also in a Crisis

At enterprises in the chemical and petrochemical industries productivity for the first five months was only at 67-91% of the last year's level, timber preparation fell by 10%, production of construction materials was down 7-12% and in particular, cement production fell by 11%.

Russian specialists think that there could be a sharp drop in non-ferrous metal production, but quantitative data on this is considered secret. Russian Ministry of Industry experts say that production of aluminium in the republic for the first half year of 1992 could total 93% of last year's level, manganese—99.9%, titanium—98%, zinc—89% and tin—80%. The worst drops could be in lead production, only 75% of last year's level, nickel—86% and copper—82%.

Supreme Soviet

Vice Premier Khizha Addresses Money Circulation

LD2006135892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1935 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Speech by Russian Vice Premier Georgiy Stepanovich Khizha at Russian Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 19 June—recorded]

[Text] [Khasbulatov] Georgiy Stepanovich Khizha will deliver a report on the implementation of the joint decision on urgent measures to improve the settling of accounts in the national economy, and to raise the responsibility of enterprises for the state of their finances.

[Khizha] This is a very acute question. The state of affairs is deteriorating continuously. Therefore, literally the day after I took up my post I had to begin preparing this decision. We tried to prepare a decision which would radically improve the situation. I must say that the process is very complicated and difficult, and the situation is difficult. Evidently, in this situation it is not possible to find some sort of 100 percent effective medicine, but one can outline a whole range of steps which will lead to some improvement.

As I said at the time, I do not think that the decision which was signed as a result is sufficient to lead to a sharp improvement, however, we thought that everything it envisages is essential in order to move in the right direction. It covers virtually all the issues which it is essential to tackle now. These are effectively three in number. They are, first, to improve the situation, to resolve in some way the card-index situation and the vast debts which have accumulated today at the enterprises, and which crush them and prevent them from working. The second issue is to increase the working capital, which is clearly insufficient. The third is to take measures to introduce some sort of new procedure in the banking system, which in future would prevent this negative process.

I believe that among the reasons which have led to this unpredicted increase in prices—and I hope that you all recall that when this process began and the decision was made to free prices from 1 January it was thought that prices would rise by a factor of three to three and one-half. In fact prices have increased by a factor—it is now quite difficult to say—a figure of around 13.5 times is cited, or perhaps 15 times. This is rather difficult to assess now.

I reckon that this is largely due because the banking system and all the accounting methods within the bank and the financial mechanisms for the functioning of enterprises, such as bookkeeping, the system of calculating profit and so on, have not been adapted to these market conditions. In effect they have remained unchanged, which has led to this incommensurate increase in prices and to this rather catastrophic situation today.

Therefore, it is necessary to adopt measures to deal with these three areas. Therefore, a decision has been prepared. I am not going to go through it as you are probably familiar with it. In our view it tackles all these three tasks.

However, I must, unfortunately say, that over the past two weeks...[Khizha changes thought] During the past week, as planned, a check was organized. I held a conference and then informed the government leadership and the Supreme Soviet that in effect the decision is not being fulilled. Unfortunately, I am unable today to report to you that it has already been fulfilled.

What basic elements were envisaged? It envisaged quite gentle—not radical but quite gentle—economic measures which could improve the situation, even if only slowly. The first measure was perhaps not an economic one. But it did not envisage a sharp increase in the volume of funds in circulation, the monetary mass. It was the second point—the organization of audits [zachet] on a regional and local basis, but not on a nationwide basis. I repeat that after long discussions the decision was made not to carry out any global or republican, well Russian, audit, but to carry out regional ones.

However, for this it was necessary to propose model recommendations for carrying out this audit and to give instructions to the banks—the central and local banks—and the heads of administrations to begin to implement them. This would not have resulted in a 100-percent elimination of the card indexes but would have considerably reduced them. Unfortunately, the instruction was not given to the banks. The methodology was not given to the banks, nor even recommendations.

Consequently, we have already received messages from a whole range of regions addressed to the leadership of the country and to Boris Nikolayevich. Ruslan Imranovich, I have here a telegram addressed to you and to Boris Nikolayevich. It has been signed by some 10 leaders of republics and oblasts, and complains that this point is not being fulfilled, and that the banks are not carrying out this work on the spot.

The third point is to recommend that the Central Bank allocate a sufficient volume of credit to the commercial banks, even at an interest rate as high as 80 percent, in order for the banks to allocate credits to top up the working capital again and for credits to be allocated to those points from which money would begin to flow along the whole chain, and thus do away with the card indexes. Unfortunately, this too is not being done.

We reckoned that amounts should be allocated to the regions in proportion to the level of indebtedness created in those regions, and thus try to untie their hands. This too was not done; at least, so far, this has not been done. The government's proposal that the Central Bank open special credit lines has not been adopted. It seems that agreements have been reached with the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance—a package of documents has been elaborated and put forward, I have it here—which would provide under specified conditions, via credit from the Ministry of Finance, for enterprises to be allocated the increased working capital which they need.

Unfortunately, again agreement has not been reached between the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank on the amount of credit to be allocated to the Ministry of Finance which would be sufficient to resolve this problem. To date, the Ministry of Finance considers that this amount cannot be less than 500 billion [currency not specified] and in total is asking for 1 trillion. Meanwhile, the State Bank considers that it cannot allocate more than 100 billion; well, it considers this impermissible.

So, in its turn the State Bank has proposed a methodology; I have a document which—all the documents were handed to me today—we have just discussed them. In its turn the State Bank considers it possible to carry out some sort of global, Russia-wide audit, and it has presented this document today. But the Ministry of Finance considers this measure impermissible. Thus, the first point which instructed the Ministry of the Economy, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation to carry out a careful analysis and then propose a united procedure for regulating this problem unfortunately has not so far been carried out in full. Even though the proposals are, I believe, sufficiently radical and acceptable, they have not been carried out by these services, with the exception of the Ministry of the Economy—we do not have a document from them yet, although there is some material on a different subject.

Therefore, in the past two weeks the situation has deteriorated. The volume of reciprocal non-payments has increased to 2.5 trillion to date, and each day it is increasing by 25 billion. Therefore, of course, the situation in general to date is not satisfactory. Nonetheless, something positive has been elaborated in this period, so to say, by the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank, some documents which in general are more radical, and

which in my view may lead to considerable progress, but unfortunately so far these have not been implemented.

Why has such a situation arisen and what do I think is the way to get out of it? I would like to repeat that the situation which pertains today could not have been predicted. If, from the moment that prices were set free—and this was an absolutely essential measure for moving over to the market economy; it was the decisive step and it was prepared in general by the whole preceding development of events—if at the same time as this a whole range of measures had been taken to change the systems, to adapt the banking systems and the systems of internal accounting within the enterprise, then evidently the leap in prices would have been such as had been forecast in advance.

I will give you three elements which in my view should have been adopted. The first is that the system of bank settlements between enterprises should have been brought into line with the generally accepted world system of bank settlements between enterprises. What happened, however? The whole of our banking system operated in accordance with the methodology, the methods, and the technology of settlements between enterprises which were laid down tens of years ago, and that is how it continued to function. The enterprises in effect received and dispatched goods accompanying them with requests for payment which did not require immediate payment but were put into card indexes.

You understand, the card index which was created was, in effect, an interest-free loan to which all enterprises had recourse. A considerable role was played by two basic socialist principles—our corporatism and the striving to support one's own operations, those of neighboring enterprises, and the former banking system which had not undergone change. I am not going to describe another dozen reasons. There are many of them. Evidently you know about them. But I consider that this mechanism supported the growth in prices and it rose to the scale which we have today. Yes, there are tens more reasons—the thinking of the leaders, the accepted stereotypes, and the methods of the functioning of the economy. However, in my view this mechanism led to this incommensurate increase in prices.

So, the volume of production as measured in rubles, the volume of turnover, so to speak, has increased approximately 13-15 times. The money supply, on the other hand, is being held in check by the government, and quite rightly so. The government hoped to prevent an uncontrolled leap in prices by holding the money supply in check. This was the sole chance, the sole way of achieving this. The government restrained the money supply, which has remained at roughly the same level. To date the amount of cash in circulation has approximately doubled.

But what has happened? This support for the banking system, the development of this cashless circulation, has resulted in a situation where the flow of goods has, to a significant extent, become detached from the cash flow. Cash has stopped acting as a restraint on prices because, as things stand at the moment in the country as a whole, the volume of dispatched output is only half paid for. Half of the flow is matched by an accompanying flow of cash and the other half is moving without cash. Do you understand this? Therefore, prices are continuing to increase. They are not being restricted by the volume of ready cash in the system. Money has proved incapable of controlling this process to any great extent because, I repeat yet again, the main financial procedures of the economy have not been changed, either within the banking system or at enterprises. The system of auditing has not been changed. It has not been brought into line with standardized auditing practices in use throughout the world.

The system of calculating profit has not changed either. What is profit in our economy nowadays? Take a look at what it really is. It is a completely abstract constant as far as accounting is concerned. It is completely at odds with the concept of profit which exists within a market economy. So, although external conditions have changed, internal procedures and processes have not. The normative basis has not changed either. It is still determined from the center rather than by enterprises. As a result we have had a wholly incommensurate reaction from our economic system to changed external conditions. If prices have increased 13-fold and money supply only doubled, this naturally means that the flow of goods is moving without money.

What has been the consequence of this? The taxes which we levy are of course levied on money. They are expressed in terms of money. Now the budget lacks even the cash it needs to pay for those things which it has already been decided should be paid for out of the budget. This is another reason for the failure to fund those lines of finance which should have been funded out of budget money, so to speak. This is what has created that enormous reciprocal debt, those enormous ledgers which exist today. Structural changes, changes in the pattern of demand, changes in the thinking of directors, and so on have, of course, played a part in this. Nevertheless, if these mechanisms had been functioning normally, the scale of this monetary situation would have been far less. I am profoundly convinced of this.

It had, of course, been thought that around 20 percent—maybe 30 percent—of enterprises would find themselves below the waterline and would go under, bankrupted by their debts. The remaining enterprises would remain afloat. The sickness could then have been treated by fairly mild economic methods. The decision which was adopted allowed for economic methods of treating this situation. And it would have been effective. Today, however, we are being squeezed by several finite conditions. First, we cannot increase the volume of money in circulation because this will immediately cause a rise in prices and wages. We cannot increase wages because we cannot print the money which we need even now. We cannot even pay current wages. By increasing the

amount of money in circulation we again fuel the inflationary spiral, which has risen by at least 20 percent monthly in recent months—although we do not have the precise figure. This is in spite of very tough restrictions on the amount of money in circulation.

If we do not boost the money supply, we will not be able to develop production any further. If output is not backed by money supply, it will have to be curtailed, it will have to fall. That is on the one hand. On the other hand, we will not receive budget revenue and will be unable to fund those areas which we must finance out of the budget. We must make it incumbent on the State Bank to carry out all the instructions which are set out in this provision. If it had done, the situation would have been easier now.

The second thing which needs to be done is this: Today we must, evidently, adopt those measures proposed by both the State Bank and the Ministry of Finance. We should also adopt special accounting arrangements. Ways of doing this can be worked out—in fact they already have been. This should be done in a way which prevents an increase in the amount of money in circulation. That is, on the one hand. On the other hand, the State Bank should advance credit to the Ministry of Finance, which should then allocate liquid cash to enterprises so that this same situation is not repeated on the same scale in a few months' time.

Third and finally: From 1 July we must revise all financial mechanisms used within the State Bank so that this phenonemon does not happen again in due course. If we go on restraining the money supply we cannot expect prices to come down. This mechanism has a ratchet effect. It can only move in one direction. In the present situation, if we go on restraining the money supply, we will not, unfortunately, be able to get prices down. Therefore, money supply and the volume of production can only be balanced by reducing output.

[Khasbulatov] Thank you, Georgiy Stepanovich. Generally speaking, the essence of what you have said boils down to the admission that the juridical, organizational, and economic foundations of reform should have been created before embarking on its implementation. You also said that you—or to be more exact the government—did not expect prices to triple. But that was no surprise to us. I spoke about this a hundred times. You also did not expect that output would slump. Specialists, industrialists, and all the others warned us about this. Everything happened in the manner predicted by specialists and not in the way planned by our government. There is nothing astounding about that.

'Russian Unity' Deputy Criticizes Ostankino

LD1806204892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[A. Lutskiy video report; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Lutskiy] Picketing of the Ostankino television center was today followed by a statement from the Russian Unity bloc of deputies, which was read out at a news conference at the White House. The statement criticizes the state mass media and calls for the formation of special observer councils.

Viktor Anpilov, who was invited to the briefing, described the Ostankino Television and Radio Broadcasting Company as an empire of lies. He said that the siege of that empire would continue, and he invited everyone interested to provide material assistance to the pickets. Anpilov cited the example of a citizen of Palestine who had already donated 20,000 rubles. He also called for a campaign against world capital, which he described as totally Zionized.

Deputy Pavlov warned that it will not be long before the struggle with the regime—and I quote—goes over to armed methods. [video shows Lutskiy interviewing Sergey Baburin, captioned "member of the Supreme Soviet"]

[Lutskiy] Do you not think that what the opposition is currently doing is bringing down structures of authority?

[Baburin] Where Russian Unity is concerned, we are doing our utmost not to join the government in pushing Russia back to the October Revolution. On the contrary, we are blocking the government's attempts to bring about a repeat of 1917. If the present government continues with what it has been doing for quite a long time now, it is they who will unleash the war—I mean the government and its supporters.

Access Limited to Classified Archives

LD0906132392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "ITAR-TASS News-in-Brief Column of June 19"]

[Text] Moscow—The Russian parliament ruled on Friday [19 June] that access will be temporarily limited to classified and top secret archives which are not 30 years old yet. Documents containing information on personal life of citizens can be declassified 75 years after they were issued. Archives are declared state property.

Session Approves Law on Refugees, Migrants

LD1906174692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS—By the end of 1991 the number of forced migrants was nearing 800,000, including 230,000 on Russian territory, according to official information.

However, the actual number was much larger, since only forced migrants from conflict zones, on whom corresponding governmental resolutions are adopted, are registered.

According to estimations of some experts, under conditions of unstable economic and political situation on territory of the former Soviet Union a large-scale forced migration of the population both in and from Russia is expected in the near future. This information was cited at today's meeting of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The Russian parliament today adopted in the first reading the laws "On Refugees" and "On Forced Migrants" to establish the legal position of forced migrants in Russia, as well as mutual obligations of the migrants, the state and governmental and non-governmental organizations.

According to the law, the refugee is a "person, who arrived or wishes to arrive in Russia, does not have the Russian citizenship and was forced to leave the place of one's permanent residence on territory of another state due to violence as regards this person or members of his family or persecution or a real threat to be persecuted on racial, ethnic, religious, language or political conviction reason."

The forced migrant is a citizen of the Russian Federation, who had to migrate to Russian territory or within it on the same reasons as the refugee.

Deputies React 'Positively' to U.S. Accords

LD1906223692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1320 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Vinitskaya and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jun—Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the international affairs and foreign economic relations committee of the Russian Supreme Soviet, considers that the Russian parliament is likely to support its president and ratify the Russo-American documents adopted in Washington. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today, he described the agreements reached in Washington as "a major gain for both sides and for the world as a whole."

Yevgeniy Ambartsumov does not share the opinion of some deputies, who consider that allegedly "in America the disarmament of our country has occurred." I do not see the sense, he said, in persisting with figures of parity, because the principle of reasonable sufficiency of armaments is now seen throughout the world as being more realistic.

A member of the Parliamentary Committee for questions of defense and security, Aleksey Tsarev, considers absurd the suggestion voiced by some "Russian patriots" that there is a possibility of war between Russia and the United States. Regardless of the multiplicity [kratnost] of mutual reductions of nuclear armaments of the two states, he said, war would be a disaster for the whole world.

Even representatives of Russia's military-industrial complex, who would not seem to have an interest in arms reduction, reacted positively to the agreements that have been reached, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by one of the leaders of the "Radical Democrats" faction, Sergey Yushenkov. Asked to comment on yesterday's statement by the "Russian Unity" faction that "the Washington accords will lead to the armed overthrow of the Russian Government," Sergey Yushenkov said: I think it is these so-called patriots who now represent the force that is capable of unleashing war within Russia.

Baburin Says Yeltsin's U.S. Visit Humiliating

OW1806162392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian MP [member of parliament] Sergey Baburin, who is a leader of the Russian Unity opposition faction, said that Boris Yeltsin's visit to the US "humiliates Russia". During a press conference on Thursday [18 June], Baburin said that the president's ingratiating tone in the U.S. Congress makes one wonder whose interests he is defending. Baburin and MP Nikolay Pavlov sharply criticized the defence-related agreements reached in Washington.

Session Refuses To Debate Bankruptcy Decree

LD1806172492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—The Russian parliament refused on Thursday [18 June] to open debate on the presidential decree on bankruptcy, thus disregarding the request of the opposition deputy, Sergey Baburin, who said the decision of the executive authority should be agreed upon with the legislative authority.

It was parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov who insisted the request be turned down. The parliament should accelerate the work on adopting the law on bankruptcy and there will be no need then to discuss the presidential decree, he said.

The parliament had blocked a bill on bankruptcy even before the presidential decree was signed.

Supreme Soviet Approves Chernobyl, Amnesty Bills

LD2106054992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Nikolay Artemev]

[Text] Both chambers of the Russian Supreme Soviet are working jointly today, and this morning, after detailed debate, the deputies adopted a bill on amendments and addenda to the law of the Russian Federation on the protection of citizens subjected to the effects of radiation as a result of the disaster at the Chernobyl atomic power station. This bill was adopted on its second reading.

The law on the protection of citizens subjected to radiation at the Chernobyl atomic power station was initially adopted in May 1991, and in those conditions it played a positive role. It made it possible to somewhat alleviate the existence of some people, but during the implementation of the law, for reasons of both an objective and subjective nature, there were cases of inadquate execution. Moreover, during the transition to the market and liberalization of prices of goods and services, the state of affairs concerning the implementation of this law was further aggravated.

Now with the amendments to the law adopted today, it has been decided to grant compensation and other payments and benefits to those with a minimum amount of remuneration of labor. There have also been clarifications of the standards regarding the labor law and pension guarantees. Procedures with regard to providing medical and other aid to people who suffered from the disaster at the Chernobyl atomic power station have also been brought into conformity with the Russian law on medical insurance of citizens.

Also today, a resolution of the Supreme Soviet was adopted on an amnesty. The report on this question was delivered by Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the committee for legislation. Under this resolution, amnesty applies to 20,000 persons. They will be released from their places of imprisonment. Another 40,000 people will have their sentences reduced.

The Supreme Soviet also examined the question of the election of judges of a number of kray and oblast arbitration courts and military courts.

Coup Plotters Not Covered

LD2106063192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1236 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS—The joint session of the Russian parliament's chambers adopted a resolution on amnesty today. The amnesty covers all women and also such categories of the convicted as invalids of the first and second groups, men over 60 years of age, elderly people who took part in the defence of the homeland, the convicted minors and a small part of men who received the prison term that does not exceed three years and have already served one third of this term.

Slightly more than 20,000 people, who were convicted for the first time for crimes that do not pose a great social danger, can be released from prison under the resolution. In addition, the term of the punishment will be slashed to some or other extent for approximately 40,000 convicts held in correctional-labour establishments.

Persons convicted for deliberate murder, causing heavy body injuries, aggravated rape, robbery, theft under aggravating circumstances, house break-ins, racket, in other terms, crimes aimed against persons, and also massive theft, bribe-taking and other grave crimes are not subject to release.

Deputies of parliament pointed out "positive conduct" in serving out the sentence was the indispensable condition for being pardoned under the amnesty. Legislators emphasised that the amnesty is actually a humane act, will be a logical follow-up on sweeping democratic transformations in Russia and help enhance law and order in places of imprisonment.

Legislators did not agree with their colleague Vladimir Isakov who proposed that this amensty also cover Artice 64 of the Penal Code that deals with punishment for high treason.

Deputy Boris Tarasov's attempt to retrieve General Varennikov, a member of the State Emergency Committee, from the investigation prison Matroskaya Tishina was also unsuccessful: his case does not fall under the amnesty. Committee for Legislation Chairman Mikhail Mityukov clarified that the general's case can be examined only by the clemency institute which is in the president's competence.

Parliament Passes Law on Monetary System

OW1906085792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0745 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Parliament passed a law on the monetary system which will take effect July 1. The law states that the official rate of the ruble to other currencies will be determined and published daily by the Central Bank of Russia. The official relation of the ruble to gold and other precious metals is not established. The ruble may be used as the monetary unit of other states under government agreements with the Russian Federation.

The law grants the Central Bank of Russia the exclusive right to issue money. The bank also has the right to confiscate illegally minted money, issue licenses to conduct banking operations, and in a legal or administrative proceeding raise the question of ending the economic activities of legal entities or individuals under appropriate legislation.

Discussion on Fascist Threat Rejected

LD1906120192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS—The Russian parliament has rejected by the name-by-name voting the proposals of some democratically-minded MPs [members of parliament] to discuss "the threat of fascism in the country."

The proposal was put forward at today's joint session of the two chambers of parliament by Lev Ponomarev, who substantiated his proposal by reading an excerpt from the anti-government leaflet circulated near the White House. The leaflet is signed by Viktor Anpilov, leader of the "Working Russia" movement and one of organisers of the picketing of the Ostankino TV centre.

Ponomarev was supported by several more MPs. They strongly criticised Moscow's law enforcement services which, in their opinion, are not properly repulsing those who call for the overthrow of the lawfully elected authorities in leaflets and at rallies.

Regional Affairs

Armenia Asks Vladikavkaz To Reopen Gas Lines

OW1806182192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Armenian delegation headed by the State Minister, First Vice Prime Minister Vizen Chitechvan arrived in Vladikavkaz Thursday [18 June]. The purpose of the visit is to hold talks and give the North Ossetian parliament an address requesting that shipments of gas be resumed along the pipeline which passes through Georgia.

A short while ago North Ossetia turned off the pipeline in retaliation to a terrorist attack by Georgian soldiers in South Ossetia in which dozens of refugees were killed.

The sanctions effected Armenia as well. Due to the stoppage in gas shipments the republic loses 50 million rubles daily.

'Principal' Agreement Reached

OW1906190592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday [19 June] in Vladikavkaz the governmental delegation of Armenia headed by the republic's First Vice Premier Vigen Chitechyan conducted negotiations with the North Ossetian leadership on resuming deliveries of natural gas via the Georgian territory.

Sources close to North Ossetian Supreme Soviet told "IF" [INTERFAX] that a principal agreement on ceasing the blockade of the gas main was reached.

The North Ossetian Parliament passed a resolution to stop gas deliveries in May as economic sanctions against Georgia in response to escalation of conflict in South Ossetia.

At present Georgia is receiving gas from Turkmenistan via Azerbaijan.

The North Ossetian Supreme Soviet is to adopt a resolution to end the blockade of the gas pipeline.

Apparently the session will be held after the session of the Russian Council of Security in Moscow which Chairman of the North Ossetian Parliament Akhsarbek Galazov is expected to attend.

Russian Commission To Aid Ossetians Detailed

LD1906090992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 18 Jun—Determining North Ossetia's need for additional material assistance in accepting the wounded and refugees from South Ossetia is the task facing a state commission which arrived here on Wednesday [17 June]. The commission is headed by Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee on Emergency Situations. The commission leaves today for Tskhinvali, the administrative center of South Ossetia, an autonomous republic in Georgia. It is now the second year that interethnic conflict has raged there between Ossetians and Georgians.

Various assessments put the number of refugees from South Ossetia who are now in North Ossetia at between 100,000 and 130,000. Approximately 800 refugees arrive here every day. North Ossetia's own reserves for providing for the needs of the refugees are virtually exhausted. Its leadership has therefore turned to Russia for help. Russia has already provided an itinerant autonomous hospital and a medical civil defense division able to cater for approximately 150 wounded a day.

The Russian Government has also adopted a decision on the emergency allocation of 200 million rubles to North Ossetia and on the dispatch of preserves, sugar, dried milk, flour, vegetable oil, animal fats, medicines, blankets, and tents from Russian state reserves. It is intended to begin construction here of rapidly built facilities suitable for accommodating the refugees under winter conditions.

Dudayev Visits Baltics in 'Strict Secrecy'

LD2106135792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 21 Jun—Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, has in conditions of strict

secrecy visited the Baltic countries, the CHECHEN-PRESS news agency reports.

Movladi Udugov, chairman of the State Committee for Information and the Press, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that Dzhokhar Dudayev's working visit took place two days ago and was very fruitful. During the trip the president of Checheniya, which has not yet been recognized by anyone, met with "top leaders and politicians of the Baltic states." Groznyy is keeping silent as to whom he specifically met. It is stated only that "agreement in principle was achieved on the earliest establishment of close relations between Checheniya and the countries of the Baltic region."

According to the CHECHEN-PRESS information the trip was made on a military transport aircraft and Dzhokhar Dudayev himself sat at its controls. Before his election as president of Checheniya the 48-year old general commanded an air force division stationed in Tartu (Estonia).

Moscow, Groznyy Cooperate in Fraud Inquiry

MK2006105592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 3

[Report by Natalya Pachegina: "Moscow Detectives Seek Billions. Colleagues From Checheniya Ready To Cooperate"]

[Text] As Movladi Udugov, minister of information of the Chechen Republic, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, an investigative group from Moscow arrived in Groznyy 17 June with the permission of the government of Checheniya. Together with representatives of the republic's law-enforcement organs it will conduct an investigation into the facts of the embezzlement of particularly large sums of money by means of illegal banking operations that were being carried out between Moscow and Groznyy during the period since 1987.

In the past the Russian Ministry of Security was very restrained in its attitude toward the official zeal of its Chechen colleagues. At the time Salman Albakov, the Chechen Republic's minister of security, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent of the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry's official refusal to make investigative materials available to detectives from Checheniya. The Chechen investigative group was thrown out of the Russian capital almost right after the abortive joint investigation.

The Moscow detectives themselves arrived in Groznyy less than three weeks later. This constructive step by Russia is regarded in Groznyy as a response to the statement by the Chechen Republic Prosecutor's Office which contained unambiguous allusions to the real political reasons behind the actions of the Russian Security Ministry. In addition, Groznyy believes that the Russians' readiness to cooperate, according to their data, is connected with the fact that prominent financial figures in the Russian banking system are mixed up in the affair. Each of the two sides takes a different view of the size of the material harm they have sustained. Thus, Oleg Rumyantsev, responsible secretary of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Constitutional Commission, cites the sum of 55 billion rubles [R]. The Chechen side estimates the size of the thefts at the far larger sum of R100 billion. According to certain information, this figure will feature in the talks to be held between Russia and Checheniya in June and July.

Novosibirsk KGB, Party Files Declassified

PM1706141992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jun 92 First Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Dmitriyev: "KGB Secrets Transferred to State Archives"]

[Text] Novosibirsk—The transfer of some KGB files to the Novosibirsk State Archives is in full swing. The plan is to transfer files in two categories—archive investigation files (on victims of repression) and "filtration" ["filtratsionnyye"] files (on former prisoners of war). Moreover, all former party archive documents are being declassified, whereupon all the files from there will be available to researchers.

Cossacks Dissatisfied With Yeltsin Decree

LD1706211692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1739 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don—Cossacks' Chief Vladimir Lagutov has said that Boris Yeltsin's decree on measures for realization of Russian Federation law "on rehabilitation of repressed peoples" for Cossacks is half-hearted and inconsistent. Vladimir Lagutov, chief of the Cherkassk district of the Cossacks' Union in the region of the Don Army, also said in an interview to PF [POSTFACTUM] that, in his opinion, the main defect of the residential decree dated June 15 is the fact that the decree does not contain formulations related to the historic territories of the Cossack people, no it contains mention of their return to the Cossack people and their rights to these territories as of the original population. [sentence as received] Besides, the decree does not envisage the return to the Cossack people of the property which earlier belonged to the region of the Don Army, as well as to all other Cossacks' national-and-territorial formations existing before 1917. However, the reference in the decree that land plots will be given to Cossack societies where they live in close-knit communities is, in Lagutov's opinion, only aimed at giving the Cossack people the chance for creating their own reservations, and ignoring their rights for the whole land and natural resources which the Cossack people possessed before 1917, though, in Lagutov's words, the unique nationality in the Russian territory, which had its own stateship before the October overthrow in 1917 was the region of the Don Army. At the same time, in Lagutov's opinion,

the presidential decree makes it possible to activate the work of local Cossack organizations, recreating traditional self-government forms, which will let the Cossack people fight in future for recreating the region of the Don Army, existing before 1917.

Smoking 'Likely' Cause of Vladivostok Explosion

OW2206125592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the most likely causes of explosions in a Pacific Fleet arsenal in Vladivostok on May 14th was smoking by servicemen, operating with shells in a storage. This has been reported at a Vladivostok news-conference by the Deputy Attorney General of the Pacific Fleet Vitaliy Vitenko. At the same time, in his words, investigation is not yet over and other versions are being studied.

The deputy chief of Vladivostok's administration Ivan Abroskin has told journalists that by preliminary estimates the damage to the city amounts to 32 million rubles.

Rear-Admiral Victor Topilin, a spokesman for the Pacific Navy, has refused to say accurately when engineering work in the arsenal will be completed. In his words, shells were scattered from the explosions on an area of 50 hectares. 120 engineering troops are working there at present.

The lawmakers corps and public of Vladivostok and the Maritime Region are raising the issue on a transfer of ammunition depots to areas safe for civilians. Howver, as the deputy chief of the Maritime Region's Administration Igor Chernyanskiy has confessed in an interview with an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent, if last year 360 million rubles were required to transfer an arsenal, today that sum has risen to 1.5 billion rubles.

Food Vouchers Issued in Tatarstan

LD1306141492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1224 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Kazan—Tatarstan Cabinet of Ministers reported that every citizen of the republic is to get 5 vouchers of R [ruble] 100 nominal value each. The vouchers are intended for purchasing meat, sugar, butter, margarine and vodka. Moreover, a monthly vodka norm—2 bottles—will remain the same, while for the rest foodstuffs it will be increased: sugar—up to 2.5 kg, sunflower oil—up to 400 g [grams], margarine—up to 500 g.

According to available information, coupons for these kinds of products will be abolished, however ration-cards for sugar and vodka will remain. The vouchers will be accepted by cash department thereby replacing coupons and money. If the cost of a purchase exceeds the voucher's nominal value, extra payment in rubles is not ruled out. In case a customer doesn't need vodka and sugar, he or she can buy other products instead out of the mentioned list.

Food vouchers will be handed out at the place where wages, pensions, stipends and allowances are usually received. Vouchers for children will be most obviously handed out at their mothers' work places. According to PF [POSTFACTUM] information, it is not obligatory to take half of wages in cheques. However, those who refuse to do so are automatically deprived of the opportunity fo buy these products at prices regulated by Tatarstan Government. Tatarstan Cabinet of Ministers draws attention to the fact that introduction of vouchers does not mean the transition to national currency. This is only an opportunity to solve the problem of cash money shortage. As soon as the situation is normalized, the vouchers will be abandoned.

Collective Farm Goes Private, Welcomes Refugees

PM1906102192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Video report by O. Shommer and V. Dolgov, from Saratov Oblast's Bolshiye Kopeny; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Shommer over video of Russian village] Bolshiye Kopeny is an old Russian village which has seen better times. Unfortunately, the fate of being transformed into the "Put k Kommunizmu" [Road to Communism] Collective Farm and negotiating the familiar milestones on that road did not pass it by. In other words, there would be yet another dying village in the depths of the CIS were it not for the financially autonomous "Avtodorozhnik" enterprise in the city. People there got their heads together and took an unorthodox decision. Paying off all the collective farm's debts, which ran into several million rubles, they set up a joint stock company based on it. And, most important, they decided to take in people from other Commonwealth states neighboring on Russia who are quitting their birthplaces for well-known reasons.

These houses are being built here for the newcomers. The first 10 families have already moved in. They are invited to help with the work, which is not likely to run out. Just take a look at the winter crops! And so the newcomers' wish to show what they can do and to put down roots in the new place coincides with the Bolshiye Kopeny joint-stock association's potential to assist them in this.

International Affairs

Mediation Offered for Moldovan Cease-Fire

LD2006140792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1341 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 20 Jun—The Ukrainian national information agency stated today that "the Government of Ukraine is deeply concerned at the tragic development of events in the city of Bendery and resolutely demands an immediate cessation of military operations".

The official statement says in particular: "The government of Ukraine stresses once again that the conflict in the Republic of Moldova should be resolved by political methods within the framework of a mechanism created in accordance with international accords. Any other way leads to suffering by innocent people. Ukraine is prepared immediately to join in the work of the quadripartite commission with the aim of stopping the bloodshed as quickly as possible".

Autonomy for Dniester Within Moldova Urged

LD2206160192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Jun—The Dniester region should become an autonomous republic within Moldova—this is Ukraine's position, which President Leonid Kravchuk voiced today at a meeting with his local representatives. They are studying in Kiev at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers' Institute of State Administration.

The main thing today, according to the head of the Ukrainian state, is to halt the bloodshed in Moldova as quickly as possible and to settle all matters peacefully, by means of negotiations. Ukraine will do everything it can toward this. A government delegation urgently flew to Chisinau precisely for that purpose. The delegation will take part in the quadripartite talks with representatives of Russia, Moldova, and Romania. The objective has been set to ensure that it is indicated precisely in the documents adopted that, should Moldova join Romania, a Dniester Autonomous Republic would retain the right to determine itself as its people decide.

The head of the Ukrainian state, speaking about the forthcoming meeting in Dagomys on 23 June with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, voiced confidence that Ukraine and Russia will be able, given the desire and a responsible attitude to the situation that has developed on the territory of the former Soviet Union, to halt the bloodshed and armed clashes on interethnic grounds in the hot spots of the CIS.

Army Ready Should Dniester Conflict Escalate

LD2206172192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Odessa, June 22 TASS—The Ukrainian Army will not stay idle if the Dniester conflict escalates, a senior Ukrainian military commander told reporters on Monday [22 June].

"In case of escalation of military developments in the Dniester region bordering on the Odessa region of Ukraine and taking into account the ethnic composition of the population of the region of Moldova the troops of the Odessa Military District will fulfill their duty and protect the interests of sovereign Ukraine", Vitaliy Radetskiy, commander of the Odessa District said.

Ukrainians and Russians comprise the majority of Dniester residents and it was not clear from the statement whether the troops might interfere in the conflict or prevent it from spreading to Ukraine.

However, Radetskiy added the military will not act by themselves and will wait for political decisions and orders from the president and the defence minister.

Radetskiy said he hopes politicians will act fast and correctly to avoid involving regular army into the conflict.

Ukrainian-Russian Summit Talks Discussed

LD2006173292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1642 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, June 20 TASS—TASS—The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers today considered preparations for the Ukrainian-Russian summit scheduled for June 23 in Dagomys.

The summit is expected to consider

—The inter-state account of mutual debts of Russian and Ukrainian enterprises and organizations,

—Mutual payments between the two states at the Ukrainian exit of the "rouble zone",

—Price formation for mutual goods deliveries,

—The formation of volumes of mutual deliveries of major products in 1993.

The proposal to discuss the division of abroad property of the former Soviet Union and unblocking of hard currency accounts of Ukrainian enterprises, organizations and citizens in the former Soviet Foreign Economic Bank has been supported as well.

The cabinet meeting also expressed the wish that the summit considers the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the organization of officers' training, the procedure to transfer and dismiss officers and warrant officers, and

settlement of financial-economic problems connected with the withdrawal of the former Soviet Western Group of Forces.

National Affairs

Naval Commander on Plans To Build Fleet

LD2106085392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Ukraine intends to set up its own navy without waiting for a final decision on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. This was stated by Rear Admiral Kozhin, commander of the republic's naval forces, according to a report in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. To achieve this, the admiral noted, Ukraine is making use of its own shipbuilding potential. The crew of the first escort vessel will be formed by the end of this year, and another two vessels will be making running tests, the commander of the Ukraine's naval forces reported.

Unauthorized Crimean Referendums Rejected

LD1906202892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1710 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Under a decision by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, the Crimean Republic will be authorized to hold referendums only on issues included within Crimea's competence by Ukraine. The law on amendments and alterations to the law of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] "On All-Ukrainian and Local Referendums" passed by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on June 19 also says that referendums on issues that are not within the competence of the Crimean Republic, as well as not within the competence of bodies of local and regional self-governments and administrative-territorial entities, are prohibited and results of such referendums, if conducted, will be deemed invalid. Decisions to hold referendums on issues that are not within the competence of the Crimean Republic will entail responsibility in accordance with the applicable legislation, says the law. In addition, words the Ukrainian SSR and the Crimean SSR were replaced by words Ukraine and the Crimean Republic correspondingly.

Byelarus

Supreme Soviet Chairman on Nuclear Energy Need

LD1906174992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1443 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Minsk—Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Byelarus Stanislav Shushkevich: We can't do without nuclear energy. Stanislav Shushkevich, now from the environmental summit recently held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also said that a numerous group of French nuclear energy specialists is expected to arrive shortly in Byelarus to examine related issues.

In Shushkevich's words, despite severe aftermaths of the Chernobyl catastrophe, Byelarus with its considerable scientific basis will contribute to improvement of the world environmental developments through training experts in environmental issues from developing countries on a charity basis. Thus, according to Shushkevich, should be assessed Byelarus contribution to implementation of the declaration of the environmental forum in Rio de Janeiro [as received].

Shushkevich denied accusations of the ex-president of the republican Academy of Sciences, Vladimir Platonov, now in the U.S. on a business trip, that he [as received] is impossible to return to Byelarus due to obstacles posed by the Byelarus leadership.

According to Shushkevich, Platonov, currently reading lectures in a number of American universities, sent a written notification to the leadership of the Academy of Sciences that he [as received] is impossible to head the Academy of Sciences no longer.

Nuclear Plant Construction Rumors Denied

LD1906160692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By BELTA correspondent Vladimir Glod—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, June 19 TASS—Byelarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich refuted rumors on the alleged construction of nuclear power plants in the near future on Byelarus territory.

At a news conference here on Thursday [18 June] Shushkevich commented on results of the Rio earth summit and described as "absurd" rumors Byelarus has allocated land lots for the construction of nuclear power plants.

At the same time, the Byelarus parliament head, nuclear physicist by education, voiced an opinion "Byelarus has no prospects for non-nuclear power engineering. This issue must be studied, analyzed and approaches to it must be elaborated. We are in need for a scientific concept of Byelarusian power engineering".

Shushkevich reaffirmed during his recent French visit he discussed with the French president and prime minister a possibility of examination and help on part of French specialists, whose authority is valued highly in the world.

The parliament head stressed once again high-class specialists in nuclear power engineering and environmental protection will help the forecast and analysis of the matter.

Moldova

Defense Ministry Reports Worsening Situation

LD1906204592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1816 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau, June 19 MOLDOVA-PRES—TASS—The Moldovan Defence Ministry press service on Friday [19 June] afternoon released a report about the aggravation of the situation in Cocieri, Cosnita and Pohrebnia, where in contravention to the Moldovan parliament efforts to reach an unconditional ceasefire on both sides "various mercenaries and Smirnov's henchmen continue to endanger the lives not only of defenders of Moldova's integrity but also of peaceful civilians".

Moldovan Units Reportedly Enter Bendery

LD2006010992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2305 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Bendery, 20 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Thirty-six tanks, 40 armored personnel carriers, and around 40 pieces of other fighting equipment entered Bendery in the Dniester region, upon which the armed forces of Moldova began an offensive yesterday. The town's Civil Defense Staff reported this to Anatoliy Kholodyuk, Radio Dniester's regional correspondent.

Valeriy Demidetskiy, ITAR-TASS correspondent in Chisinau, reports that the Moldovan Interior Ministry has confirmed that subunits of special-purpose police detachments have entered the town and are carrying out an operation to disarm Dniester region detachments of guardsmen and irregulars who have attacked the town department [not further identified].

Interior Ministry Cited on Bendery Operation

LD2006044192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0305 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 20 Jun—As reported by the press center of the Moldovan Interior Ministry, subunits of the special purpose police have surrounded the place in Bendery where "the illegal armed formations of the Dniester republic" are located. It has been proposed to them that they should give themselves up. The people have been called upon not to interfere in the combat

operations, to stay at home, and to remain calm. The press center of the Moldovan Interior Ministry has confirmed that there have been casualties in the nocturnal fighting.

Continued Battles in Dniester Area Reported

LD2006100892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0815 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Clashes between Dniester region guards and Moldovan police which began on 19 June in Bendery continued during the night. Soon after midnight the police, with the participation of Moldovan armed formations, tried to storm the Bendery City Executive Committee building. According to the Dniester Region Information Service, the building was subjected to artillery fire.

At around 0400, with the support of tanks and armored vehicles, Moldovan units seized the bridge over the Dniester. A direct threat was made to the effect that Tiraspol would be stormed. After a battle lasting one-and-one-half hours the bridge was taken.

Dniester region radio correspondent Anatoliy Kholodyuk has reported by telephone to Moscow that street fighting continued in the center of Bendery this morning. According to preliminary reports 10 people have been killed and about 30 wounded.

Valeriy Demidetskiy, ITAR-TASS correspondent in Chisinau, reports that the Moldovan Special Purpose Police (OPON) have suffered only light wounds. The Moldovan Ministry of Internal Affairs press center reported that at present Bendery is under the control of OPON forces, who are holding talks with representatives of the armed formations of the Dniester region on the latter handing over their weapons.

MOLDOVA-PRESS agency reports from Chisinau today that President Mircea Snegur has addressed a message to the inhabitants of Bendery calling on them to remain calm and to refrain from going into the city until the illegal armed formations have been completely disarmed. "Yesterday, immediately after the conclusion of the work of the mixed commission of the Moldovan parliament on halting the armed conflict in the Dniester region, separatist guards in the city of Bendery opened fire on the city police department," Mircea Snegur noted. "The police who have been terrorized for the past few days, could no longer tolerate such actions by the guards. They opened fire in reply and asked for help. This help was given and at the present time constitutional order is being restored in the city."

"Bendery is a multinational city in independent Moldova and everyone should live here in peace and harmony, Mircea Snegur stressed. That is the sincere wish of the leadership of Moldova, but the Tiraspol leaders do not want to understand this and they have brought you to the abyss of confusion."

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0900 GMT on 20 June in a similar report by Gennadiy Varfolomeyev in Tiraspol adds the following: "At 0600 local time on 20 June, thousands of people gathered at the 59th Division's base demanding arms and equipment to defend the republic. General Yuriy Netkachev, commander of the 14th Army, stated that the Army continues to observe neutrality. But it is unlikely that it will be possible to restrain those assembled from seizing arms and equipment. Many servicemen of the 14th Army are preparing to come to the defense of their home. The course of action allow us to draw the conclusion that this is a pre-planned, wide-ranging action to invade the Dniester region."]

More on Fighting; Snegur Appeals to Population

AU2006144292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] As I already reported yesterday, events in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova have evolved in an undesirable direction. [passage omitted]

The unprovoked and furious attacks by the separatist guardsmen against the Tighina [Bendery] police headquarters marked a turning point in the situation to some extent, making the atmosphere more tense. Bloody fighting broke out as units of the Moldovan Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry, as well as volunteer detachments, came to the rescue of the Tighina police. Dead and wounded have been reported, including from among the civilian population of the town.

According to reliable forces at the Moldovan Defense Ministry, heavy fighting was still continuing one hour ago [0700 GMT] today, because guardsmen barricaded themselves in buildings of the local administration. They are—of course—the guardsmen who did not manage to flee or who have not been disarmed.

Military forces of the Republic of Moldova are now re-establishing constitutional order, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said in the appeal he addressed this morning to the population living in Tighina and throughout the republic. The true and unshakable wish of the leadership of the Republic of Moldova is that the people of Tighina, alias Bendery—a multinational town—should live and work in peace and understanding, the way they used to do, until the separatists removed the lawful bodies of the town, the appeal asserts.

The president of the republic called for the Tighina population to remain calm and for the citizens of the whole republic to be vigilant and to ignore provocative rumors launched by the separatists. The leadership of the republic is exerting its functions and has the situation in Moldova under control, President Mircea Snegur's appeal concludes. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Not Intending To Move on Tiraspol

LD2006113492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Aagneliy]

[Text] Chisinau, 20 Jun—Moldova's armed forces have no intention of moving on Tiraspol. This is said in the appeal of the Moldova Defense Ministry to Tiraspol inhabitants and the servicemen of Russia's 14th Army. The appeal states that people of Tiraspol are not in danger. Moldova's Defense Ministry is calling on the people to boycott the "criminal activities of the anti-constitutional bodies of power, and to refuse to participate in the bandit formations."

CIS Commander Denies Involvement in Fighting

LD2006133792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 20 Ju —As a MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent has learned from reliable sources, General Netkachev, commander of the CIS 14th Army, was called to the telephone and admitted that troops of the Moldovan National Army are not involved in the clashes going on in Bendery. The general also denied claims that a fuel depot of the 14th Army was been set on fire by missiles launched by the defenders of Moldovan statehood.

There is irrefutable proof, the source reports, that the [Dniester] guard formations resorted to this trick to provoke the 14th Army into launching combat operations against the Republic of Moldova.

Army, Police Reportedly Attack 14th Army

LD2006140192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 20 TASS—The situation in the Moldovan town of Bendery grows complicated.

The Russian 14th Army staff reported today units of the Army's Bendery Garrison were attacked by Moldovan National Army and police that have occupied the town. There are wounded among Russian servicemen.

The Moldovan Defence Ministry press center refuted the information and said 14th Army servicemen in Bendery keep neutral and no actions will be applied as regards them under the order of the Moldovan Defence Minister.

Moldovan parliamentary presidium member Viktor Berlinskiy described as very complicated the situation in Bendery. Speaking over the Moldovan radio, he stressed the town is controlled by Moldovan National Army and law enforcement bodies.

Only few facilities—the city executive committee building, the building of the United Council of Working Collectives and the headquarters of the local guard unit—have not been seized. They are surrounded and, in the words of Berlinskiy, "should surrender. Otherwise, they will be disarmed by force."

Dniester Authorities Pledge To Repulse Attack

LD2006161992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 20 Jun—Dniester region authorities stated today that they consider it their duty "to take all the necessary military, diplomatic, and other measures to repulse Moldova's aggression."

The statement by the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester region republic, which is not recognized by the parliament of Moldova, refutes the official version of the Moldovan authorities, which characterizes the storming of Bendery as a response measure. The parliament of the Dniester region assessed Moldova's actions as "a denunciation of the laws and decisions adopted by the Moldovan parliament to settle the armed conflict."

The Supreme Soviet of the Dniester region appealed to the CIS countries to lend military and humanitarian aid.

ITAR-TASS has also received a statement from four Moldovan people's deputies from the mixed parliamentary commission for settling the conflict who, as a sign of protest against "the villainous attack by the armed forces and police of Moldova," are refusing to participate further in the work of the commission.

14th Army Demands End of Combat Operations

LD2006182692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valerly Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 20 TASS—The 14th Russian Army Military Council demanded that the Moldovan president and the parliament immediately stop combat operations in Bendery and issue an order on cease-fire before 6.30 P.M., as well as strictly abide by decisions of the Moldovan parliament on peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Otherwise, the military preserve the right to use arms, on which they ask to inform the local population, says a statement circulated today.

"As a result of aggression unleashed by the Moldovan leadership, military settlements of the 14th Army in Bendery were attacked, a canteen was devastated, a barrack was burnt down, there are killed and wounded among servicemen, some of the military were taken hostage," says the statement.

"The Military Council informs that work of military observers from Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine overseeing the observation of truce in Bendery has been interrupted and blocked.

The situation the servicemen and their families found themselves in shows once again their patience has its limits".

The 14th Army Military Council informed the Moldovan president and the parliament the personnel and materiel of the Army will be moved to fulfill the task after 8 P.M. to protect the military settlements and the servicemen families.

Defense Minister on Critical Dniester Situation

AU2006191292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1642 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 20/6/1992—"The situation is more than critical in the Dniester region. We are under strong pressure from Bolshevik, communist forces, backed by the military, the Russian empire, willing to see the empire reborn, Moldova an enclave and Moldovans a population of the third or fourth category," the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Moldova, Ion Costas, told the ROMPRES correspondent at Chisinau.

The separatists are being given assistance. They are well armed, headed by reserve officers or the staff of the 14th Army. The situation will be very difficult. The forces hostile to us are strong, numerous, and they are granted assistance in various ways. Unfortunately, our forces are not so numerous, but many or not, we shall make our duty. We are ready to defend our country and our people at the risk of our own lives.

Referring to the stance taken by Russia as regards the tensions in the Republic of Moldova, Ion Costas mentioned that Russia intended "to make a republic on our strip of land, that would serve its strategic interests in the Balkans, to maintain an enclave close to Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania, to be monitored by it."

Speaking about the ways to settle the conflict in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Costas opined that the conflict had to be solved by peaceful, diplomatic means. "We are preparing the new structures of our national army, to make those who do not observe our constitution, to force them, if necessary, to be good citizens of our country, the Republic of Moldova."

Bucharest Reports Security Council Meeting

AU2006184592 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Excerpt] While fierce fighting went on in the town of Tighina [Bendery]—leading to many people having been killed and wounded—an extraordinary meeting of the Supreme Security Council of the Republic of Moldova took place today in Chisinau under the chairmanship of President Mircea Snegur.

The council examined the newly-created situation in the conflict zone, resulting from the massive attack launched on 19 June by the illegal forces of the guardsmen against the Tighina town police headquarters. The Supreme Security Council found that the separatist forces do not intend to accept peaceful ways to settle the conflict, although Moldova's parliament—with the participation of deputies representing the electorate of the eastern rayons—has passed special decisions for this purpose. The members of the Supreme Security Council emphasized the fact that despite the separatists' provocations—which were meant to stop the activity of the joint parliamentary commission set up for the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the eastern rayons—the leadership of the Republic of Moldova remains true to the political, parliamentary way of putting an end to hostility. To this end, the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs was commissioned to most urgently make preparations for and organize a meeting of the foreign ministers of Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, and the Russian Federation, as well as a summit conference among the leaders of those four states.

The Supreme Security Council condemned the appeal of the alleged president of the phantom [Dniester] republic addressed to the leaders of economic units on the left bank of the Dniester, asking them to sever all contacts with similar units on the right bank. [passage omitted]

Dniester Region Cuts Off Gas Supply to Moldova

LD2006184492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] The situation in the Dniester region remains tense. Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports from Tiraspol:

[Varfolomeyev] I have been told by Grigoriy Marakutsa, the chairman of the Dniester region Supreme Soviet, that the 14th Army continues to observe neutrality despite the fact that a barracks in one of the military units in the town of Bendery has been fired on and destroyed. There are wounded among the servicemen. Attempts by the leaders of the Dniester region to contact the Moldovan leadership have proved unsuccessful. By 1900 local time shooting was continuing in Bendery.

I was told by the chairman of the Dniester region Supreme Soviet that "we were forced to take such a step as cutting off the gas pipeline to Moldova"—end of quote. The next step by the Dniester region in response to the invasion by Moldova could be switching off electricity.

Russian Army Tanks Reportedly Enter Bendery

AU2006194892 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Bendery, Moldova, June 20 (AFP) — Tanks flying the Russian flag entered this Russian-speaking city late Saturday [20 June] and opened fire on Moldovan forces who had taken control of almost all areas of the city, central CIS television in Moscow reported. Quoting the Moldovan Ministry of Defence, the Commonwealth of Independent States television said the tanks were from the 14th Russian Army based in Tiraspol, capital of the Dniester region, but could have been seized by national guard fighters of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

The move followed an ultimatum issued late Saturday by the chief of staff of the 14th Russian Army to Moldovan forces to halt their offensive against Bendery, which lies across the Dniester from Tiraspol.

Russian separatists said around 200 people were killed or wounded in attacks on Saturday, a figure confirmed by an official spokesman in Tiraspol.

The authorities in the Moldovan capital Chisinau reported five dead and around 10 wounded after fighting flared up again in the east of the republic on Friday. Bendery's hospital said ten people were killed and around fifty wounded.

In a statement read to AFP by telephone, the Russian military council based at Tiraspol gave the Moldovans until 9:00 P.M. (1700 GMT) Saturday to halt the hostilities, failing which it would send in "armoured vehicles." The statement said Moldovan forces had attacked units of the 14th Russian Army, leaving an unspecified number of dead and injured, taking hostages and destroying equipment and military buildings. [passage omitted]

Dniester Forces Reportedly Occupy Bendery

LD2006213492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti newscast]

[Text] We have just heard by telephone from the Dniester region press center that armed Dniester region formations entered and occupied downtown Bendery at about 2300 Moscow time. The square in front of the town executive committee building and all the town executive committee buildings have been liberated. An operation to save the wounded has begun.

Forces of the Moldovan National Army forces are presently concentrated on the town's outskirts. Snipers are active in the town itself. Columns of armored vehicles of the Moldovan National Army have been transferred to the settlement of Kremenchug.

Snegur Says Russia Entering War With Moldova

LD2006215292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau, 21 Jun (MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS)—In reply to a statement by the 14th Army Military Council, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has sent a telegram to the Russian Government in the person of State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis.

"It follows from the ultimatum of the 14th Army Military Council"—the telegram says—"that its personnel is engaging in combat operations as of 2000 and that Russia is thus entering into war with Moldova." Snegur requests "that the necessary steps be taken to prevent this madness" and gives the assurance that "on Moldova's part, no combat operations have been nor will be taken against the 14th Army."

At the same time Snegur addressed the 14th Army Military Council, warning that the Army's involvement in the conflict, which is an internal affair of the republic, would be qualified as the beginning of war by Russia against Moldova and that the whole world will immediately learn of this.

The Moldovan president stated that "there were no grounds for such actions, as the military units of the 14th Army were not being subjected to any attacks; they were being provoked into rash action by the separatist leaders."

Gagauz Ready To Help Repulse Moldovan Attacks

LD2106094792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau June 21 TASS—The unrecognized Gagauz Republic has made a protest against, as it put it, "another aggression of Moldova against the Dniester Republic." The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Gagauz Republic circulated a statement saying that if combat operations against the Dniester Republic and the killings of peaceful civilians are not stopped, political and economic sanctions will be taken against the Republic of Moldova. At the request of the Dniester leaders, the Gagauz Republic is ready to help repulse Moldova's aggression, the statement pointed out.

Mosanu Accuses 14th Army of Interference

LD2106104292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0942 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, June 21—Alexsandru Mosanu, chairman of the Moldovan Parliament, accused the Russian 14th Army of interfering in the internal affairs of Moldova. In his radio address last night he reiterated the "allegiance of the republic to a peaceful, parliamentary way of settling all problems." unfortunately, he continued, this course cannot be followed, because "the

forces hostile to our freedom and independence, operating more aggressively, cynically and shamelessly than ever before, managed to imposed the bloody way on us."

Mosanu stressed that in these critical, difficult days everyone can and should display patriotism and loyalty to the motherland, can prove that he is the supporter of a free, dignified life. "We favour the exact observance of the ceasefire mechanism that was worked out by the mixed commission of people's deputies and approved by parliament, but this should be recognised by the opposite side too," the head of the Moldovan parliament said.

Leadership Accused of 'Military-Communist Regime'

LD2106120492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, June 21 TASS—Igor Smirnov, leader of the unrecognised Dniester Republic, has accused the Moldovan leadership "with Snegur, Mosanu and Kostash at the head" of unleashing an armed conflict in Bendery, eastern Moldova, and described it as a "military-communist regime".

Speaking on Tiraspol TV, he expressed confidence that "Russia will render all-round assistance to the Dniester region" which, according to Smirnov, follows from the latest statement of the military council of the 14th Army.

The military council of the Russian 14th Army demanded on Saturday [20 June] that the Moldovan president and parliament stop immediately combat operations in Bendery, issue an order on ceasefire and fulfil unswervingly the resolution of the Moldovan parliament on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Dniester Forces in 'Full Control' of Bendery

LD2106133792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports over the telephone on the night in Dniester region and the fighting in Bendery and Dubossary.

[Varfolomeyev] At 1940 on 20 June, after artillery preparation fire and having destroyed Moldova's weapons which were providing covering fire for the bridges across the Dniester, 6 tanks and several APCs [armored personnel carriers] drove over the bridge and burst into the town of Bendery. The blockade of the town executive committee building has been broken, as well as other points of strategic importance in the town. The armed forces of the Dniester region are in full control of Bendery. Moldova's armed formations had to withdraw from Bendery, leaving over 10 disabled APCs behind. However, snipers have stayed in the town. Having hidden in the top floors and attics, they are delivering aimed fire. Measures are being taken to eliminate these terrorist groups.

The Moldovan special purpose police detachment forces managed to hold Bendery for less than 24 hours. These would-be warriors have created real mayhem in Bendery. They have killed more than 200 civilians. More than 500 people have been injured.

Following the large-scale incursion by Moldovan armed formations into Bendery on 20 June, events in Dubossary have receded into the background. But in Dubossary too there was military action on the night of 20-21 June. Starting around 2000 on 20 June the town of Dubossary was subjected to rocket and mortar bombardment, which continued throughout the night. Many homes have been destroyed. According to preliminary information, there are 2 dead and 15 injured. There was also military action in the (?Cosnita) bridgehead. At 0600 this the Grigoriopol Executive Committee building was shelled. A power line was damaged. There are no dead in Grigoriopol.

Interior Ministry Says Army Controls Bendery

LD2106134892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau, 21 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Shelling of Bendery in Eastern Moldova resumed this morning after a brief lull. The city is under a blockade and it is being subjected to aimed fire from various kinds of weapons. A number of industrial enterprises and residential buildings are burning. The emergency services are unable to retrieve all the dead. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this on the telephone by the Bendery Town Executive Committee today.

The Moldovan Interior Ministry Press Bureau has confirmed that "a real war is going on in the town," adding that an ultimatum to Moldovan policemen has been announced on the town radio, to the effect that they are to "vacate the town " by 1700 Moscow time. However, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the Moldovan Defense Ministry that reports of the national army subunits and the republican police attacking the town do not correspond to reality.

According to the Moldovan military, Bendery is under the control of army formations and law enforcement bodies of the republic for the second day now. They are continuing to come under fire today from the Dniester Guard, who are using tanks, heavy guns, and other equipment. All the attacks have so far been repulsed. People have been killed, including members of the civilian population.

'Fierce' Fighting Resumes in Bendery

OW2106135292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fierce fighting resumed in Bendery Sunday [21 June] between the troops of Moldova and the Dniester

area. Aleksandr Baranov, deputy commander of the 14th Army, told IF [INTERFAX] that the fighting is in the city itself. According to him, Moldova is concentrating armour in in Bendery. No accurate casualty reports have come through.

A source in the press-center of the Moldovan Defense Ministry confirmed reports that fighting had resumed in Bendery. He accused the Dniester side of provoking clashes. According to the Defense Ministry, the Dniester area is sending reinforcements to Bendery from Tiraspol, Grigoriopol and Dubossary. For example, yesterday a column of 9 tanks and 8 APCs [armored personnel carriers] was sent in from Tiraspol.

In the course of yesterday's fighting in Bendery, the Moldovans hit 11 tanks. A source in the Moldovan Defense Ministry press- center said that the number of casualties in Saturday fighting is being clarified.

According to Russian military, fighting claimed 61 lives and 160 people were injured in the Dniester area, including the victims of shooting at Dubossary.

The press-center of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester area reports that more than 200 people died over the previous day and more than 300 were injured.

Fighting flared over an incident with the municipal department of the Moldova police when the guards of the Dniester area demanded the release of allegedly illegally captured comrades. The Moldovan population came to the rescue, triggering fighting.

The Russian 14th Army did not participate in fighting, said its deputy commander Colonel Baranov. The Russian Defense Ministry said that the army had taken extra precautions to improve its security in the area.

Russia Blamed for Widening of Conflict

AU2106134392 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] The atmosphere was relatively calm last night until daybreak in the town of Tighina [Bendery], which is the main scene of the bloody fighting on the banks of the Dniester. [passage omitted]

In a statement issued at midnight [2100 GMT], the leadership of Moldova asserts that the Russian Government, in its 20 June meeting, examined the situation in the Dniester rayons of the Republic of Moldova, a fact that represents a gross infringement upon the rights of a sovereign and independent state. The statement also says that the course upon which the Russian authorities have embarked will lead to the widening of the conflict and will prevent its settlement.

In its turn, the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Moldova issued a statement saying that such a turning point in the position of the Russian Government breaks all former agreements and jeopardizes stability and peace in the conflict zone. The evolution of the events—the statement reads—demonstrates once more that the presence of the 14th Army on the territory of the Republic of Moldova is a destabilizing element and is directly leading to the widening of the conflict. The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Moldova has been commissioned to state that the responsibility for all the serious consequences of the latest involvement of the 14th Army in the armed conflict is incumbent on the Government of the Russian Federation, which has that Army under its jurisdiction.

Armored units of the 14th Army have occupied the town of Tighina, but the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova—which came to Tighina during the previous night—did not reply. The behavior of the defenders of the Republic of Moldova is in accordance with the statement of President Mircea Snegur, according to which Moldova has never taken and will not take any kind of action against units of the 14th Army.

Mr. Alexandru Mosanu, the chairman of the Moldovan parliament, talking last night on Chisinau radio, stated that Moldova does not want any kind of confrontation with the Russian Federation, least of all a military one. We want to go on solving the problems in a peaceful, parliamentary way, and we are not going back on any of the articles [concerning peaceful settlement of the conflict] recently passed in our parliament, Mr. Mosanu stated. Nevertheless, he added, these facts have to be acknowledged by the opposing party as well.

Death Toll Increases as Fighting Continues

LD2106154192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 21 TASS—The situation has aggravated in the break-away Dniester Republic after shelling of the city of Bendery resumed after noon Saturday [20 June].

The number of wounded and killed in the city is estimated at several hundred people. Many industrial enterprises and apartment blocks are on fire.

The warring sides report contradictory information. The Moldovan Defence Ministry said the Moldovan Army and police have been controlling the city for two days, while the Dniester Republic press centre in Tiraspol maintains that the Moldovan Army and police units had been driven away from the city last night.

The Moldovan Defence Ministry claimed the Russian 14th Army stationed in Tiraspol handed over nine tanks, several armoured personnel vehicles and artillery guns with the crews to Dniester Republic militants. "Now these machines are storming Bendery," the spokesman said. However, the 14th Army command told ITAR-TASS the Army keeps neutrality.

Snegur Cables Yeltsin on Dniester Situation

AU2106164092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1538 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 21/6/1992—I count on your common sense and on the non-interference in our internal affairs, reads a telegram the Republic of Moldova's President Mircea Snegur sent on Sunday, June 21, to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and to the MOLDOVA-PRES agency.

The democratic processes in your country are met with resistance by putchists and other non-friendly elements. We should not like Russia to pass through what we are experiencing now in Moldova, but it is quite probable if you continue to make use of General Aleksandr Rutskoy's appreciations, the telegram reads.

Forces Concentrate Near Bendery

OW2106165292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The enemies are concentrating their troops near the town of Bendery in the Dniester region. IF [INTERFAX] learned at the press center of the government of the Dniester republic that military equipment and troops of Moldova are streaming toward the town. 2500 troops, 20 APCs [armored personnel carriers] , 10 or 15 tanks, and up to 2 howitzer divisions were counted in one direction.

According to the press-center of the Moldova Defense Ministry, tanks, APCs and artillery are also approaching the town from the left-bank of the Dniester toward Bendery. Both Chisinau and Tiraspol are expecting new fighting.

Fighting also continues in Bendery. Deputy commander of the 14th Army Aleksandr Baranov told IF that there are many Moldovan snipers in the town, and residential quarters are constantly fired on. According to him, artillery rounds and mines fired by Moldova hit the grounds of the 14th army military bases.

Both sides are suffering casualties, but it is not yet clear how big they are. Baranov said that judging by everything, around 200 to 300 people died on the side of the Dniester in the course of Saturday clashes in Bendery.

Moldova has not yet reported on its casualties.

The president of the Dniester republic Igor Smirnov signed a decree on days of mourning from June 21-23 to commemorate the numerous victims of Saturday's fighting.

14th Army Denies Involvement in Fighting

OW2106171792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Secretary of the Dniester Republic, Valeriy Litskay, says that from 5 to 7 self-propelled artillery pieces of the 14th Army's tank group were moved in to suppress Moldovan positions in yesterday's fighting in the town of Bendery. The army acted with unusual restraint by using minimum means, Litskay told IF [INTERFAX] on Sunday [21 June].

In the meantime, the army commander's aide, Aleksandr Baranov, denied any direct army involvement, stressing it would defend only the army barracks and houses of the servicemen's dependants.

Litskay spoke of loss of life and widespread destruction of Bendery, particularly in its cental part. Rough counts put the number of dead at 100. Moldova lost 10 pieces of armour, 12 cannons and a large amount of ammunition.

Litskay denied allegations that the Dniester authorities had ordered to cut off gas supplies to Moldova, saying the gas pipeline was damaged as a result of the fighting. Also badly damaged is Bendery's railway station.

Leaders Refuse To Speak to Russian Delegation

LD2106175892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Sergey Filatov, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has informed journalists that a parliamentary commission that was sent to Chisinau to discuss the problem of the Dniester region is staying in the building of the Russian permanent mission. However, the Moldovan leadership is declining contacts with the delegation and does not answer telephone calls. The deputy speaker was told this by Vladimir Podoprigora, deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee on interrepublican relations, regional politics, and cooperation, who telephoned from Chisinau. In Filatov's opinion, the delegation will most probably stop attempts to get in touch with the Moldovan leaders and will go to the Dniester region. This is reported by IMA-PRESS.

State Counselor Decries Russian 'Interference'

OW2106180692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Bendery developments indicate that this was a well-thought-out operation," said Sunday [21 June] in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] the state counselor of Moldovan President Stefan Gorda. "It followed the style that is typical of Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and his associates." The

telltale sign, said the state counselor, is that such operations were simultaneously carried out both in Moldova and Georgia. "This is evidence of an integrated plan to remove the democratic wing of the Russian leadership, scrap the liberal reform course, return to administrative economic management methods and political diktat, consolidation on strategically important areas in Georgia and Moldova, folding the liberal foreign policy line of Yeltsin and Kozyrev, and a return to a great power logic," said Gorda.

The state counselor of the Moldovan president described the Saturday ultimatum of the military council of the 14th Army as direct interference into the domestic affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

Asked by IF whether the republican leaders considered turning for military help to another country in connection with Russia's hard line, Stefan Gorda said that this is for the time being out of the question. "We hope," said he, "that the world public opinion will respond to Russia's interference into Moldovan affairs."

Moldovan, Georgian Leaders on Russian Involvement

LD2106184492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau, 21 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the president of Moldova today distributed a report on a telephone conversation between the leaders of Moldova and Georgia which took place last night. It says that "President Mircea Snegur telephoned Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze and shared his alarm in connection with the statement made by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy at a Russian Federation Government meeting on 20 June."

Touching on the situation in Moldova, Russia's vice president said that "the Government of the Russian Federation believes itself entitled and obliged to warn most seriously: Russia will not permit the Dniester region and South Ossetian conflicts to be resolved by force. We intend to put a decisive stop to the mass murder of the civilian population."

"In the assessment of Moldova's president," the press service report says, "the independent republics—members of CIS and the states which are not members—are coming up against relapses of Russian imperial thinking, with attempts to use force to resolve conflicts. Also meriting attention is the fact that these conflicts are taking place precisely where Russian troops are stationed. The question arises: Are the Russian authorities not provoking these conflicts with a view to keeping control of the states which have become independent?"

"It is time to tell the truth. Russia is supporting authoritarian, neocommunist circles," the report notes. "This is first and foremost dangerous for Russia itself, certain circles of which are looking for new enemies in order to do away with democracy and reforms in Russia and restore there a totalitarian, militarist regime. If General Rutskoy and those whom he represents really want a peacful settlement of the conflict, the first cause of which is an imperial national policy, then they should state unambiguously that Russia will not resort to force and threats, and that it respects the right of other peoples to build their lives as they want."

"Eduard Shevardnadze agreed with that evaluation and said that now it is important that people in Russia and the world public should have truthful, objective information about what is happening in Georgia and Moldova. It would be a good thing if observers of the CSCE member-states were in the conflict areas. Georgia would welcome the UN secretary general sending his special respresentative to Georgia so that he can establish the facts on the spot and see for himself Georgia's striving to resolve the Georgian-Ossetian conflict peacefully, through dialogue, and at the negotiating table."

Snegur Asks UN's Ghali To Help Settle Conflict

AU2106201092 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] The situation in the conflict zone, especially that in the town of Tighina [Bendery] has been worsening today. [passage omitted]

Under such circumstances President Mircea Snegur sent a new telegram to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, requesting once more that he support efforts made to peacefully settle the conflict and asking him at the same time that the telegram, together with the Moldovan parliament's decisions concerning measures to peacefully solve the conflict, be disseminated as official documents of the UN Security Council.

The telegram also says that the situation has worsened as a consequence of the separatist forces having broken the cease-fire agreements and of the direct involvement of the 14th Army. [passage omitted]

Statements made by the leadership of the Russian Federation—including those of President Boris Yeltsin and of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy—are causing deep concern, as those statements clearly demonstrate that the Russian leadership is not willing to give up certain rights that it does not have any longer, neither factually, nor legally, in a territory that does not belong to it as a result of the breaking up of the former Soviet empire. Moreover—President Snegur's telegram reads—open menaces perpetrated by the Russian leadership and addressed to the legal leadership of the Republic of Moldova, an independent and sovereign state, as well as to other leaders of states that have recently broken loose from the former Soviet Union, are worrying public opinion in the Republic of Moldova, as people anticipate that other intervention methods and means—typical for the Soviet communist imperial system, which history has hopefully eliminated once and forever—might be

used, asserts the telegram addressed by President Mircea Snegur to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. [passage omitted]

Casualties in Both Sides in Overnight Fighting

AU2206082492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Text] The situation in the conflict area, especially in the town of Tighina, deteriorated suddenly yesterday, becoming so alarming that General Netkachev ordered the Russian Federation military observers to withdraw to the shelters of the military units deployed in the stronghold of Tighina.

Under these circumstances, the Ukrainian military observers were also awaiting orders from their country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to communiques from the Ministry of Defense, the separatists, supported by the 14th Army of the Russian Federation with military equipment, weapons, and ammunition, launched aggressive attacks throughout the conflict area, intensively bombing the defense positions of the Republic of Moldova in Cocieri, Roghi, Varnita, Tighina, and those in the direction of the village of Barcani.

There were many dead among the civilian population and many houses were destroyed. A provisional estimate by the Ministry of Defense confirmed that in the past two days 30 were killed and more than 200 wounded among the soldiers of the national Army and more than 100 were killed and more than 300 wounded among the separatists.

At the same time, new concentrations of the separatist forces were noted: 300 guardsmen were sent from the direction of Dubossary and Grigoriopol. New facts and evidence testify to the direct involvement of the 14th Army, which sent nine tanks, eight armored vehicles, and 10 120-millimeter guns to Tighina, beginning yesterday morning.

President Mircea Snegur yesterday sent another cable to the UN Secretary General asking him to support efforts to solve this conflict by peaceful means and to distribute that message as an official document within the UN Security Council. The cable also stresses the efforts aimed at conciliation made by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova and the repeated violation of the cease- fires by the separatists and the 14th Army. It also mentions the statements made by President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, which cause concern because of the overt threats they contain.

In this context, we want to inform you of the direct threats made by the Russian president on his arrival at Moscow Airport, which, among other things, stress quote: We have the necessary forces and it would be a good thing for Snegur to know this, unquote.

In reply, President Mircea Snegur sent a cable of protest and call for restraint.

The intervention of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation in the conflict in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, especially in Tighina, which claimed dead and wounded, has also led to the resumption—a day early—of the proceedings of the eighth session of parliament. According to parliament sources, in today's session, the ministers of defense, national defense, and of the interior are expected to present reports on these events—in the presence of the political and military observers of the countries participating in the four-way meeting. It is also expected that the session will probably adopt a parliament statement in this connection.

At this time, 0630, communiques from the Ministries of Defense and Interior on the situation during the night are awaited .

Casualty Toll Updated; Army Desertion Noted

LD2206075292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to the Dniester region press center, around 300 people have been killed and several hundred wounded in Bendery. A mourning period has been declared in the Dniester region for 21-23 June. In response to Moldovan attacks, ITAR-TASS reports, the authorities in Tiraspol have cut off gas supplies to Chisinau and other towns and villages in Moldova. Meanwhile, national radio has reported more frequent cases of desertion from the Moldovan Army.

Wrapup of Events in Dniester Area Reported

LD2206091292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy, MOLDOVA-PRESS—TASS correspondents]

[Text] Chisinau, June 22 TASS—Last night was the first in the recent days that passed more or less calmly in Bendery. Individual bursts were heard, Oleg Zapolskiy, a people's deputy of the Republic of Moldova, told ITAR-TASS. Together with other deputies of various levels, he was in the building of the city executive committee throughout the night.

The local authorities keep the city centre under their control. Manpower and equipment of Moldova's national army and police continue to be amassed around Bendery. Special units were set up to combat the looting.

A three-day mourning was announced in the Dniester region from June 21 to 23. The war inflicts the colossal damage on both sides, an increasingly greater part of Moldova's population feels its consequences. The

Tiraspol authorities blocked the supply of gas to Chisinau and other cities and villages. People began consuming electricity in greater amounts, which poses a serious danger as power transmission lines can fail. National radio reports increased cases of desertion from the Moldovan Army.

The Moldovan parliament urgently resumes its session at 11:00 Moscow time today. The republican defence, security and interior ministers are expected to report about the situation in the republic.

A spokesman in the Secretariat of the Moldovan parliament told MOLDOVA-PRESS that a thorough analysis of the developments in Bendery is planned to be presented at the session.

Political and military observers of the participating countries in the four-party meeting will attend the eighth session of parliament.

Moldova's higher legislative forum is expected to adopt a declaration on the evolution of the conflict in Moldova's eastern areas.

Two hundred people died and some 300 were injured in Saturday's [20 June] fighting in Bendery alone, Tiraspol radio reports. A pectin factory, a furniture-making plant, a communications station, a petroleum depot and shops of the Elektrofarfor and Moldavkabel plants were destroyed by the gunfire.

Appearing on radio on Sunday, Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Dniester Republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium, said he intends to approach the Commonwealth member-states with the request for humanitarian and military assistance.

Supreme Soviet Meets on Fighting, Situation

AU2206084692 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0800 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Text] This morning, a day earlier than initially scheduled, the parliament of the Republic of Moldova resumed its proceedings in presence of President Mircea Snegur. Opening the session, the president of parliament, Mr. Alexandru Mosanu, proposed a moment of silence to the memory of the victims claimed by the armed conflict.

The session then adopted the following agenda point: On the deterioration of the situation in the republic following the foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

In connection with this point, the president of the republic, Mr. Mircea Snegur, took the floor. He outlined the situation in the republic, given the intervention of the Russian 14th Army in the armed conflict in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova.

In this context, President Mircea Snegur said that the situation is as follows: the 14th Army has occupied the Dniester region and Russia has declared war on the Republic of Moldova.

Quadripartite Talks Under Way in Chisinau

LD2206104992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0942 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau, 22 Jun (TASS)—Talks between representatives of the foreign ministers of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine are under way in Chisinau today at deputy minister level. This was said by Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu speaking today at a session of the Moldovan parliament.

A MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent was told at the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs that during today's meeting consultations will be continued on a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the eastern regions of Moldova and preparations will be made for the next meeting of the foreign ministers of Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine.

The Moldovan foreign minister said the meeting of the four ministers will take place in Istanbul in the near future. Afterwards, the heads of the foreign affairs ministries of the four countries together with the defense ministers will meet in Chisinau, where the question of the immediate withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldovan territory will be discussed. He also noted that talks are being held on the organization of a quadripartite meeting of heads of states.

At the Moldovan Supreme Security Council meeting on 21 June, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur came out in favor of such a meeting to discuss the situation which is forming in Moldova.

Snegur Confirms Moldova 'At War With Russia'

LD2206102492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0955 GMT 22 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 22 Jun—Statements by Russia's leaders on the events in Bendery and also on the 14th Army's conduct show that "Russia is claiming the role of policeman [zhandarm] in the Commonwealth of Independent States," President Snegur today told the Moldovan parliament. He called upon the deputies, who have assembled for the urgent resumption of the parliamentary session, to adopt a document describing the Dniester region as being under the occupation of the 14th Army, and also stated that Russia has unleashed an undeclared war against Moldova. "We have to call a spade a spade—we are at war with Russia," the Moldovan president stressed.

Snegur described Russia's interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Moldova, and also yesterday's statement at the airport by President Boris Yeltsin, as unprecendented. As has been reported, on his arrival from a visit abroad, Boris Yeltsin made comments warning the president of Moldova that Russia cannot remain "indifferent when dozens and dozens of people are being killed, when there is a war in progress." He also said that Russia is ready to act "to halt the bloodshed." Snegur rejected reports that the Moldovan National Army began the war with support from tanks, stating that "the National Army does not possess a single tank". He declared that he personally sanctioned assistance to policemen blockaded in the city [as received] by Dniester guardsmen.

Snegur Accuses Yeltsin, Rutskoy of Interference

AU2206111892 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] This morning, a day earlier than initially scheduled, the parliament of the Republic of Moldova resumed its proceedings in the presence of President Mircea Snegur. [passage omitted]

The republic's president, Mr. Mircea Snegur, took the floor. He reported on the situation in the republic. [passage omitted] After presenting the events that had taken place since the evening of 19 June, President Mircea Snegur said: I believe that Russia's interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state—the Republic of Moldova—is unprecedented.

First, there was the ultimatum by the 14th Army; this was followed by Vice Prime Minister Rutskoy's statement based on insinuations and such lies as the Armed Forces of Moldova had begun a war against I do not know whom, that they entered Tighina with tanks and other combat equipment. I can tell you that the national Army of our republic does not possess a single tank. The national Army of Moldova has no tanks, not even for the president to mount and address the Army and people. The Moscow statements imply that many people have been killed; almost the whole city allegedly is in ruins and so forth.

This raises the question: What is Mr. Rutskoy's business in Moldova, in Tighina, an ancient Moldovan city, which is located on the right bank of the Dniester River. Then one also should admonish President Bush when he decided to restore order in Los Angeles and to reestablish constitutional order in that city.

The statement and ultimatum by Boris Yeltsin on returning from Canada and the United States also is unprecedented. These statements are combined with tangible actions by the 14th Army.

Concluding, Mr. Mircea Snegur said that the situation is as follows: The 14th Army has occupied the Dniester region and Russia has entered into a war with Moldova.

Then the ministers of interior, defense, and national security, as well as the vice president of the joint commission for the peaceful settlement of the conflict, presented lengthy reports on the situation in Tighina and the other eastern areas of the Republic of Moldova.

In turn, Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu briefly reported on the republic's international activity. He emphasized that the diplomatic service of the Republic of Moldova has taken action to ensure broad international support for the integrity and indivisibility of the Republic of Moldova and for the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in accordance with the principles of international law, of the UN Charter, and of the CSCE Final Act. Mr. Nicolae Tiu stressed that the ministry he is leading also has acted to disclose the destabilizing nature of the 14th Army on the territory of the republic and of the foreign support given to the separatists although the conflict is not of an ethnic but political-ideological nature.

He also mentioned the consultations that currently are underway in Chisinau between the delegations of the four countries—the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine—led by the deputy foreign ministers with the participation of high-ranking officers from the Ministries of National Defense of these countries.

After a recess, the proceedings of the parliament of the Republic of Moldova continued.

Guards, Ex-14th Army Officers Control Bendery

OW2206120692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1136 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur of Moldova declared at a special session of Moldova's Parliament on Monday [22 June] that Russia was claiming the role of a CIS policeman. "I am not a cowardly type, nor will I bow—President Snegur said. The parliament must declare that Dniester is a zone occupied by Russia and that we are at war with Russia".

The Russian Defence Ministry spokesman has disclosed for "INTERFAX" that late Sunday [21 June] night a group of saboteurs blew up at the Parkany village of the Slobodzeiski area (on the left bank of the Dniester) a fuel depot of an engineering batallion of the 14th Army (by some evidence of Dniester's Press Centre an amunition depot was blown up). The 14th Army has come under Dniester's jurisdiction. More than 20 servicemen were adversely affected. On the same day, at Bendery (on the left bank of the Dniester), Moldova police opened fire on a 14th Army unit of Russia.

According to information available at Russia's Defence Ministry, Romania dispatched 64 observers to Moldova. This evidence suggests that Romania will limit its aid to Moldova by equipment supply. Since April Romania has sent to Moldova 20 armored vehicles, 40 82-milimiter and 30 120-milimiter mortars, 1200 pieces of fire arms, scores of grenade launchers, one pontoon bridge, and 4 self-propelled ferries.

Meanwhile, according to the Press-Centre of Moldova's Defence Ministry, Bendery is controlled by Dniester's guards and former 14th Army officers. The Press-Centre also revealed that 7 people had been killed and 38 had been wounded among the National Army servicemen and Moldova Police as a result of last night's exchanges of fire at the Cosnita and Cocieri villages of the Dubossary area of Dniester. The enemy's casualties are also heavy. Moldova troops put two tanks out of action on the Cocieri line.

According to the press spokeswoman at Dniester's government, Elena Efimova, Moldova artillery shelled Bendery, Dubossary, and the Grigoriopol community last night. Some homes and enterprises were destroyed. Casualties are being specified. Ms. Efimova reported that some 200 refugees had arrived in Tiraspol from Bendery. She also informed IF [INTERFAX] that armored vehicles and Moldova troops were being brought closer to the communities along the line of the armed conflict in Dniester.

The head of the Interior Department at Dniester's government has told to IF [INTERFAX] that a transformer was damaged at the Dubossary Hydro Power Station again last night. As of Sunday, 80 tons of fuel have been spilled into the Dniester. The department chief warned that if the damaged units were not repaired within the next two days, water will overflow the dam.

MiG-29's Reportedly Readied To Attack Tiraspol

OW2206143292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reliable sources, during the night June 21 and in the morning June 22, large columns of heavy military equipment (tanks and armored vehicles) were moving from the Ungeny and Leusheny regions to the Dniester region. This equipment is reported to have been passed to Moldova by Romania.

The same sources informed IF [INTERFAX] that the Moldovan military commanders are putting the MiG-29 combat planes into a state of flight readiness. These combat planes belong to the 86th regiment located in Martsesheny and were passed to Moldova following the division of part of the former Soviet army's property, and are expected to attack Tiraspol and the dam of the Dubossary power plant.

Kazakhstan

Over R19 Billion Allocated for Armed Forces

LD2106144692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0942 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Alma-Ata—Under a draft state budget of Kazakhstan for 1992, R [ruble] 19.1 bln [billion] is planned to be allocated for the maintenance of the republican Armed Forces.

This sum is less than Kazakhstan's share of R20.6 bln, apportioned by the CIS Supreme Military Command. The draft budget envisions reduction in expenditures for the maintenance for the Army on all items, with the exception of monetary allowances to the servicemen and wages to army workers and officers. The servicemen's monetary allowances item provides for higher expenditures compared with projections presented by the CIS Supreme Army Command, prompted by a 1.89-fold increase in salaries in line with the Kazakhstan president's decree on measures for social protection of army servicemen and persons discharged from military service on the territory of the Kazakhstan Republic and also the payment to conscripts of a lump sum in the amount of 500 roubles upon discharge, and 2,000 roubles to army servicemen who are former inmates of orphanages.

The draft budget also includes expenditures for the procurement of weapons, military equipment and property, and also expenditures of the Nuclear Energy Industry Ministry, which according to the projections of the unified command of the CIS Army, are R9.4 bln in respect of the Kazakhstan Republic. Furthermore, there are provisions for a cutting of expenditures for scientific and technical projects by 22.2 times and for capital construction projects by 4.5 times.

The draft military budget for 1992 envisions the allocation of R825 mln [million] for the maintenance and operation of Baykonur space launching centre and R124 mln to finance a joint expedition for the scientific and production association [word indistinct] (Semipalatinsk-21).

The draft budget for 1992 provides for R974.8 mln to be allocated for the maintenance of border troops stationed in the republic.

The Kazakhstan parliament intends to approve the final budget version for 1992 at its 8th session.

Nazarbayev on Economic, Political Situation

OW2006175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev thinks that his republic will be able to overcome the present crisis in three or five years. In his Friday [19 June] televised address on the political, economic and inter-ethnic situation he described the current state in the economy as "tense". With all that, he said a sharp price rise has been successfully curbed. In January the prices leaped 16 times, and in June they have edged up by 8%.

Nursultan Nazarbayev warned it would be unwise to liberalize completely prices for energy, as demanded by the IMF for a guarantee of its credits. Such a step, in his opinion, would paralyze the republic's light industries. Kazakhstan will release the prices in several stages. Speaking on inter-ethnic relations Nazarbayev urged keeping stability at all costs. He rejected the pressure of the opposition demanding the government's resignation as inadmissible.

[In a related report carried at 1615 GMT in the same INTERFAX facsimile transmission received via Tokyo KYODO, INTERFAX says Nazarbayev told "the first congress of entrepreneurs in Alma-Ata" on 20 June: "Kazakhstan will shortly hold an experiment of issuing its national currency."

[INTERFAX adds that Nazarbayev "justified the measure by an acute shortage of cash which breeds discontent among the population.

["Nursultan Nazarbayev mentioned his recent telephone talk with the Russian President when the latter assured him that in two or three months the problem should be solved. Even with the coming monetary experiment, Nursultan Nazarbayev is for keeping a single rouble zone."]

Nazarabyev Expresses Satisfaction With 'Team'

OW1906181592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev rejected at the session of the republic's Supreme Soviet criticism levelled at his team by speakers in Friday's [19 June] debate. He insisted that the more foreign advisers they had, the better for Kazakhstan.

In N. Nazarbayev's opinion his economic advisers' group includes competent experts. He announced he had invited still another adviser to Alma-Ata—a Turkish professor who has been working witn President Turgut Ozal since 1980, and later would invite a Pakistani specialist who cooperated earlier with Zia-ul-Haq's government.

Official Meets With Strike Representatives

LD2206084292 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Kayrolla Yerezhepov met on the eve of the second stage of the

eighth session of parliament with (Oralbayev) and (Georgeyeva), representatives for the strike committees of public education and health care workers, members of these committees, and representatives of the industries' trade unions.

They were informed about the activities of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the commission to reduce social tension in society as a result of rising prices, which has been set up by parliament.

It was noted that the demands of workers in the aforementioned industries are fair in many ways. In order for it to be possible to meet them, however, there must be a joint search for compromise solutions.

Measures to regulate the salaries of workers in production and nonproduction industries, rising prices, and inflation were discussed. Particular attention was paid to the need to give more substance to the system for supporting the poor. These and other social protection issues will be examined at the Supreme Soviet session.

Tajikistan

Joint Session Discusses Political Situation

LD1906195792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] A joint session of the presidiums of the Supreme Soviet and the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic was held on 18 June. The session was also attended by representatives of the political parties, popular organizations, scholars and writers, and war veterans. The session discussed the political situation in the republic.

Zahirov, deputy minister of internal affairs of the republic, and Aminov, deputy chairman of the National Security Committee, presented detailed information on the subject. It was stressed that the political situation in the republic is still tense, particularly in Kolab and Kurghanteppa oblasts. Various groups in these oblasts still possess large quantities of arms. As a result, the number of serious crimes, including murder and plunder, are increasing daily. Measures by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Security Committee have not brought satisfactory results.

Aminov, deputy chairman of the republican National Security Committee, proposed that the CIS military units stationed on the territory of the republic should come under the authority of the republic in order to normalize the political situation and reliably defend the borders of the Republic of Tajikistan. He also stressed the need for organizing [words indistinct] groups.

Shakirov, Ghulamhaidarov, Sharifov, Nurmuhammadov, Zaripov and other veterans of war and labor expressed anxiety regarding the present political crisis in the republic. (?While stating) that the use of force against opposition groups will cause great loss of life, they proposed that the issue be resolved through negotiations, with the help of the president, the government of national reconciliation, the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, political parties and popular organizations.

Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, the judge of the Muslims of Tajikistan, and Yusopov, the president of the Democratic Party of the republic, spoke at the session. Yusopov said, among other things, that a plenum of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan has expressed no confidence in President Rahmon Nabiyev. Iskandarov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet, summed up the joint session.

Party Chief Calls for Leader's Resignation

LD2006163292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, June 20 TASS—The Tajik president "no longer controls the political situation in the republic. He is not able to stop the bloodshed and preserve the integrity of the nation," Tajik Democratic Party Chairman Shodmon Yusup told an emergency meeting of the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviet and the government of national reconciliation.

The Tajik democrats' leader noted the Democratic Party has expressed no-confidence to the president and demanded his resignation at the extraordinary plenary meeting. In the words of Yusup, the democrats' decision is supported by the leadership of the Rastokhes [Resurgence] and Lali Badakhshon movements, which are part of the Tajik united popular forces bloc.

"The president had enough time and authority granted to him by the republican people to use them for disarming illegal units in the Kurgan-Tyubinsky and Kulyab regions," said Yusup.

The meeting noted the situation in the Kurgan-Tyubinsky region has sharply deteriorated as the region is divided into influence spheres by armed groups of the new regime's supporters and opponents.

The situation in the Leninskiy, Gissar and Kofirnikhon regions located 15-30 kilometers away from Dushanbe is aggravating.

It was stressed the local power bodies do not control the situation, keeping "dangerously neutral" or supporting this or that group.

Numerous refugee pickets from the Kulyab region came to Shokhidon Square on Friday [19 June] to demand that the president stop illegal arbitrariness and make answer the culprits of armed confrontation.

In their ultimatum to the president the picket participants said "this is their last message". The document

says "in case the head of the sovereign state does not fulfill his duty, they preserve the right to call on their Afghan brothers for help".

Pickets remain on the square. The presidential reaction is unknown. [Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 20 June in a related report adds: "It was noted at the meeting of the extraordinary session of the presidia of the Supreme Soviet and the government that the situation in Kurgan-Tyubinsky and Kulyab oblasts in Tajikistan has sharply deteriorated. As a result of shooting between supporters of the president and activists of the Islamic Rebirth Party, 21 people have been killed in Kulyab Oblast, including two militia officers. This information was confirmed by a representative of the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs, the ANI agency reports."]

Talks Between Armed Formations, Government

LD2006195692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Girdneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 20 Jun—It is learned from sources close to Tajik Government circles that representatives of the official authorities have today begun talks with the leaders of the armed formations of Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube oblasts. The venue is on neutral territory—a building at Kurgan-Tyube airport.

Taking part in the dialogue are the acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Akbarsho Iskandarov; Deputy Prime Minister Usmon Davlad; one of the leaders of the Islamic "Rebirth" party; and other officials. The other side is represented by leaders of the oblast soviets and commanders of the armed formations, or, as they describe themselves, "self-defense detachments," as well as representatives of political parties and movements and religious figures. The same source says the subject of the talks is immediate implementation of the presidential decree calling on all groups to lay down their arms and the solving of all disputed issues by means of political dialogue. The talks are being held behind closed doors, so details of the discussion are not yet known.

Meanwhile, the situation in Kurgan-Tyube oblast continues to deteriorate. A few dozen kms from the building where the talks are being held, on the Vakhsh-Kolkhozabad route, another armed clash has occurred between supporters and opponents of the new government, with four people killed and 11 wounded. On the same section of the route, persons unknown have carried out an armed attack on a militia post.

Tajiks Attempt To Cross Afghan Border for Arms

LD2006205192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Our team has just returned from the Tajik-Afghan border.

[Correspondent Vinogradov] According to reports received by this program from the command of the Pyandzh border detachment, Tajiks made a big attempt to push their way into the territory of Afghanistan to acquire weapons on the night of 19-20 June in the sector of the Middle Pyandzh borderpost. The deterioration of the situation in Tajikistan, where armed clashes are taking place between clans from Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube [oblasts bordering on Afghanistan], have mainly contributed to this. The crossing of the border led to massive firing by Afghan armed detachments across the border at Russian border guards. It was pure luck that there were no casualties among our border guards during the exchange of fire.

As for the group of Tajiks, they were neutralized. Yet, the situation is complicated by the fact that, in reality, the border guards, who are loyal to their duties and to the oath given to the Russian president, are guarding the border against external enemies and are being fired upon by the local residents. Actually, they are doing what nobody is asking them to do. It has become virtually impossible to protect the border.

According to the border guards, Russia has forgotten about them. No supplies are being delivered to them. There is only 85 rubles in the border detachment's cash office. The officers take bread on credit for their families. They do not now know whom they belong to, whom they serve, and whom they are guarding the border for.

Industrial Zone Under 'Armed Formations' Control

LD2106080392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The ANI agency reports that control has been established over one of the major industrial zones in Tajikistan's Kurgan-Tyube oblast by armed formations which do not recognize the present government of national concord. The local airport has been closed, and the oblast oil bases and the agricultural machinery store base are not working.

According to local observers the confrontation between the two sides is moving more and more from the political sphere to the military sphere. One of the measures planned by the present government to get out of the political crisis is to subordinate CIS troops stationed in Tajikistan to the jurisdiction of the republic. As the ANI agency notes, along with the formation of a national guard, this may signify that the government does not exclude resolving the problem with force.

Conflict Reportedly Continues in Kurgan-Tyube

LD2206121592 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The sociopolitical situation in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast remains tense. This is what our correspondent Tatiyana [name indistinct] reports by telephone:

[Correspondent] Yesterday, the situation in the [Kurgan-Tyube] oblast capital [words indistinct] to the rayons deteriorated considerably. Shooting started yesterday near the Internal Affairs Directorate, where the opposing sides had gathered with the aim of taking weapons. They were repulsed from there by the militia. They then went to the collective farms [words indistinct]. There are dead and wounded.

The shooting is continuing today. Each of the opposing sides blames the other for initiating the armed conflict. The enterprises, organizations, and establishments of Kurgan-Tyube city are not working today. All of the streets of the oblast capital are blockaded and self-defense units are being formed. Very contradictory rumors are being spread in the city.

[Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 22 June in a related report adds: "As was reported on Saturday, 20 June, trilateral talks were held between the government of national accord, its supporters, and the opposition at the Kurgan-Tyube Airport Building. The corresponding protocol was signed.

["Yesterday, as you heard, dear radio listeners, the so-called (Langerov) group from the [word indistinct] from Kulyab Oblast carried out armed attacks on Kurgan-Tyube and [words indistinct] rayons. [passage indistinct]

["In (Vakhskiy) rayon, as a result of the shootings eight people were killed and 20 wounded. [Words indistinct] of the dead and the wounded [words indistinct].

["The situation remains complicated in Kolkhozobodskiy Rayon. It is calm in [word indistinct] rayon. Presently, the situation is under the supervision of the joint forces of the oblast Committee for National Security, [words indistinct] under the authority of Tajik deputy prime minister Davlat Usmon."]

Turkmenistan

President Reelected 'Practically Unanimously'

LD2206083792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Saparmurad Niyazov has been reelected president of Turkmenistan practically unanimously. According to INTERFAX, there was an almost 100-percent turnout for yesterday's elections, with 99.5 percent voting for Niyazov. INTERFAX received these figures from Turkmenistan's Central Electoral Commission. Niyazov was the only candidate for president in the election, which was held under Turkmenistan's new Constitution, adopted by the republic's parliament on 18 May.

Decree Published on Amnesty for 800 People

OW1906183592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decree by President Saparmurad Niyazov has been published in Turkmenistan on "an amnesty to be granted upon the adoption of the new Turkmen constitution." An INTERFAX correspondent has been informed by the head of the citizenship and pardons sector of the President's Council Nobat Kerbabayeva, the decree concerns some 800 persons including minors, women, invalids, World War Two veterans, and some other categories of prisoners. It will also cover those convicted for breaking trading rules, profiteering, swindling customers, criminal negligence, fraud, cooking reports, squatting on land, and illegally diverting irrigation waters.

Niyazov Takes Steps Against Illegal Exports

OW1806185492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Niyazov has issued orders to prevent the illegal production and exports of pharmaceutical materials: snake poison and liquorice. The production association Turkmenderman will be in charge of centralized production and exports, as well as the capture of poisonous snakes.

The director of the association Murad Karyev said that his country annually produces 10-12 thousand tons [as received] of liquorice. He refused to disclose the figure related to snake poison so as not to encourage pouching. He said the association will press the government to apply tougher measures against illegal producers and exporters, specifically increase fines to 5,000-10,000 roubles and even jail them.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: According to the state customs service of Turkmenistan, no attempts to smuggle liquorice or snake poison beyond the borders of the former USSR from Turkmenistan have been made since the formation of the customs service in November 1991.

Uzbekistan

Supreme Soviet To Consider Treaty With Russia

LD1906205892 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0300 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The 10th session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan [to be convened 2 July] will examine the following questions:

1. The new draft Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

2. The State Emblem of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

3. The ratification of the treaty on the foundations of inter-state relations between the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, [word indistinct] and cooperation;

4. The draft law on monopolistic [word indistinct] in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

5. Draft law on stock exchanges and stock exchange activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

6. Membership of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the IMF, International Bank for Development and Reconstruction, International Development [word indistinct], International Financial Corporation, draft law on [words indistinct];

7. Additions and amendments to the draft laws on foreign economic activity in the Republic of Uzbekistan, [word indistinct] investments in the Republic of Uzbekistan, banks and banking activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan, on taxes on citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, (?foreign) citizens, and non-citizens;

8. The draft law on citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

9. Draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on (?education);

10. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Trade Unions, the guaranteeing of their rights and activities;

11. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on defense [word indistinct];

12. Draft law on the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

13. Draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on compulsory military service and military service;

14. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on [word indistinct] of the servicemen, their social and legal protection;

15. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan [words indistinct];

16. The draft law on the norms for the appointment and recalling of heads of the diplomatic and consulates of the Republic of Uzbekistan in various countries;

17. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on diplomatic ranks and [word indistinct] for the diplomats of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

18. The draft law on the procurator of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

19. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on automobile routes;

20. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on farming;

21. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the protection of the enviroment;

22. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the State Supervisory (?Comissariat);

23. The draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on amendments and additions to the Criminal code of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

26. [number as heard] The approval of the decrees of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

27. The approval of the decisions of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

28. Changes to the composition of the Supreme Court and courts of various oblasts and Tashkent;

29. The ratification of the convention on International Civil Aviation;

30. The amendments and additions to the constitutional [words indistinct] of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

31. The formation of a military [word indistinct] within the framework of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

32. On the delegates for the inter-parlimentarian [word indistinct] of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

33. The draft law on festival days in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Armenia

President on Azerbaijan's 'Large-Scale' Attack

NC1906175892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Statement issued by Armenian President Levon Akopovich Ter-Petrosyan; date not given]

[Text] The more radical political factions in Azerbaijan recently have begun to implement a plan to occupy Armenia's southern regions and to eliminate the common border between Armenia and Iran. Azerbaijan's unprecedented military activity in Nagorno-Karabakh, the forces concentrated near Megrinskiy Rayon, and the military (?measures) taken confirm that such plans are now state policy.

According to information available to us, at least 10 motorized rifle battalions of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, well-equipped with artillery and armored cars, are concentrated in Nakhichevan Republic's Ordubadskiy and Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayons, opposite Megrinskiy Rayon. These battalions are ready to launch an attack on Armenia. In addition, the population of Ordubadskiy Rayon is being removed. Azerbaijan is completing the preparations for a large-scale attack on Armenia.

As usual, in an effort to cover up these operations with [words indistinct] propaganda (?slogans), Armenia is being accused of aggression, daily shelling of the border regions, use of chemical weapons against civilians, receiving arms disguised as humanitarian aid, and many other things.

We have declared on many occasions, and must now reiterate, that Armenia remains true to the principle of a political solution. We believe that no matter how complex the conflict may be, it must be resolved through negotiations. At the same time, we do not consider it superfluous to note that in case of an aggression against Armenia, collective security comes into force, and the CIS Armed Forces must fulfill their duty to protect the territory of CIS members.

[Signed] Armenian Republic President Levon Ter-Petrosyan

President Interviewed on Clashes, 4th Army Role

LD2106222992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Interview with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by correspondent Vladimir Nazaryan; date and place not given; from the "Itogi" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the last session of the Armenian parliament, convened especially to discuss privatization laws, a deputy from the border rayon of Idzhevan said with heartfelt sincerity: Gentlemen, what sort of property do we intend to discuss in a situation in which people do not even have a right to life at present, to say nothing of property? This was three days before the latest, unprecedentedly powerful, Azerbaijani aggression against Nagorno- Karabakh and Armenia's borders.

The results of this undisguised invasion, called for some reason liberation in the neighboring republic, are known: Shaumyanovskiy Rayon of Nagorno-Karabakh has been fully occupied and Mardakertskiy is partially occupied. More than 20 Armenian populated areas were seized and burned down.

It is the transfer of armored equipment that decided the outcome of the Azerbaijani army offensive in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon. Following a bombing raid by the SU-25 planes which dropped chemical weapons—and this is proof that ground attack aircraft did take part in this operation—tanks were thrown into the battle 50 against one.

[Ter-Petrosyan] According to our information, Azerbaijan obtained two divisions to be completely subordinate to it. This was provided for in the protocol signed by the defense ministers of Azerbaijan and Russia. However, an identical protocol was signed with Armenia, one point of which made the proviso that Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia are to receive identical amounts of arms and equipment simultaneously. The only thing that has been violated is this simultaneous timeframe.

[Correspondent] [Passage omitted] Most people agree that it is not without direct support of the units, first and foremost the tank units of the 23d Division of the 4th Army deployed near the town of Gyandzha that the seizure of Nagorno-Karabakh's territory was effected.

[Ter-Petrosyan] I do not think that the 4th Army received such an order or instructions to take part in this offensive, but it is a fact that in most cases the crews of armored vehicles turned out to be Russian. Most likely they are mercenaries.

[Correspondent] It has been five days since the state of emergency was introduced in Nagorno-Karabakh. In order to avoid the tragedy of Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, the population of major rayon centers such as Mardakert and Askeran was evacuated in good time. The only medical establishment that has survived in the Nagorno-Karabakh capital—a branch of the Armenian diagnostic center—has been turned into a military hospital. There is no longer any room under canvass and medical supplies are running out, but the wounded keep coming, transported here from the frontline. The total offensive has been broken, but Azerbaijan does not even think of stopping, concentrating new forces both around Nagorno-Karabakh and especially along Armenia's southern borders.

[Ter-Petrosyan] It is obvious to me. The purpose here is to negate the Minsk peace conference on Nagorno-Karabakh. [video shows destruction, evacuation, wounded, Ter-Petrosyan]

President Gives Briefing on Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2006163592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The Armenian president's press service reported that President Levon Ter-Petrosyan met today with representatives of social and political organizations and parties—specifically the Democratic Liberal Party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the National Self-Determination Association, the Armenian Pannational Movement, and the National Democratic Union—represented in the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

The president briefed those mentioned on the military-political situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and Zangezur [southern Armenia] and on measures Armenian authorities have taken.

Ministry Blames Azerbaijan for Talks Failure

LD1906131492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Aleksandr Grigoryan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan May 22 TASS—Armenia denied accusations its Defence Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan failed to attend a meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart scheduled for June 18.

The Armenian Defence Ministry said in a statement on Friday [19 June] it was Azerbaijani Defence Minister Ragim Kaziyev who did not arrive to the meeting at the scheduled time.

Defense Ministry Summons Reservists, Others

LD1906163592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1443 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Yerevan—The Armenian Defense Ministry reports that the reservists are summoned for three months, starting with June 19.

Anyone who has served in the Army or with certain professions applicable there like field engineers, miners, etc., is summoned.

President Issues State of Emergency Decree

NC1906182092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Decree by Armenian President Levon Akopovich Ter-Petrosyan; date not given]

[Text] Considering the tense situation in the republic's southern regions; seeking to ensure the population's security; acceding to the request of the Megrinskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons and city soviet executive committees; and guided by Point 15 of Article 8 of the Law on the Armenian President, it is hereby decided:

1. To declare a state of emergency in Megrinskiy and Kapanskiy Rayons for a period of three months and a curfew at the border (?settlements) between 2200 and [time indistinct].

2. To appoint Armenian People's Deputy Albert Gomerinovich Bagdasaryan military commandant of the state of emergency and the plenipotentiary representative of the Armenian president in these regions.

3. Responsibility for implementing this decree is placed on the Armenian Interior and Defense Ministries as well as the Megrinskiy and Kapanskiy Rayon and city soviet executive committees.

4. This decree goes into effect upon its [word indistinct] by the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

[Signed] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan

Meeting Held on Nagorno-Karabakh Situation

NC1906182192 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Gagik Arutyunyan, vice president and prime minister, chaired a meeting yesterday between the Armenian Council of Ministers Presidium and the republican headquarters for operative administration.

The auxiliary defense system, matters pertaining to the provision of foodstuffs and other aid to Nagorno-Karabakh, and the various ministries' work to that end were topics of discussion.

The participants also discussed ways to organize on-site assistance to the refugees from Shaumyanovskiy who are now in Nagorno-Karabakh and to meet the vital needs of the refugees in Armenia. State Minister Grach Akobyan was put in charge of a commission to carry out this work [words indistinct].

Nagorno-Karabakh Enlarges Defense Council

NC1906193092 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers held a joint meeting on 17 June and declared a state of emergency over the republic's entire territory. They also enlarged the NKR's Defense Council.

The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters said that there are no detachments within its regular formations which intend to [words indistinct] blow up Sarsag Hydroelectric Power Station, as it could flood not only the northern part of Mardakertskiy Rayon but also three nearby regions in Azerbaijan. It cannot be ruled out, however, that such an act could be committed by certain uncontrollable groups, which have devised such a plan.

The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters resolutely calls on these formations to refrain from any such act.

Clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh, Border Areas Noted

NC1906184892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Dear listeners: Here is a report on the incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and in Armenia's rayons that border Azerbaijan. First, however, we want to draw your attention to the following disclosure made by the NKR Supreme Soviet Press Center yesterday:

Wide-scale Azerbaijani Army attacks have created a grave situation in the NKR. Shaumyanovskiy Rayon has been completely occupied and several towns in Mardakertskiy Rayon have been captured. No information is available on the fate of thousands of people. Tens of thousands of people have lost their homes. Considering the grave situation, several armed units have decided to destroy the Sarkhan hydroelectric power plant in Mardakertskiy Rayon as a type of retaliation against Azerbaijan's aggression. The press center has been instructed to report that the republic's leaders are categorically opposed to this decision, which may have disastrous effects for Nagorno-Karabakh.

The wide-scale attacks—in which CIS military units in Azerbaijan, particularly the division partly based in Gendzha, actively participate—has further strained the already complex situation in the region.

Azerbaijani Army units threaten innocent people and kill them en masse in the Armenian residential areas they capture and ransack Armenian houses. The leaders in the neighboring republic are maintaining their policy of genocide against the people of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh], who have determined their own future with their own free will. Armenian residential areas are being hit with fire from every kind of weapon imaginable. Azerbaijani Army units are carrying out their combat operations near Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakertskiy, Askeranskiy, and Martuninskiy Rayons. The Armenian Self-Defense Forces are heroically fighting the occupation units, which are superior in number and have modern arms and military equipment. In spite of this, however, they are inflicting heavy loses on the enemy. Many of the dead Azerbaijani fighters were mercenaries. The clashes are becoming more and more violent.

Due to the grave situation in the NKR, the NKR Supreme Soviet Presidium yesterday declared a state of emergency, which will remain in effect for a month. It also called for a general mobilization and a guerrilla war against Azerbaijan in the occupied areas.

Azerbaijan's occupation of residential areas in Nagorno-Karabakh will further exacerbate the situation and fighting. The people of Artsakh will never abandon the land of their forefathers. Nothing can deprive them of their right to live on their own land. In fact, incidents confirm this fact. Armenian self-defense units are organizing counterattacks in all the battles.

Clashes took place in the northeastern sector of Mardakertskiy Rayon yesterday. The armed units in Nagorno-Karabakh strongly resisted the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, and Artsakh guerrilla units engaged in military operations. Reports we have received say that the Azerbaijani units, which had more military vehicles and weapons, tried to launch a wide-scale attack on Mardakert by shelling it with long-range artillery guns. Several men were killed and wounded on both sides.

Clashes are continuing along the border areas of Askeranskiy and Gadrutskiy Rayons. Armenian self-defense forces control the (?heights) around the towns in Askeranskiy Rayon. The Azerbaijani units have relentlessly fired on their positions; however, the Armenian units are trying to silence the enemy's firing positions.

Compared to the other rayons, the situation in Martuninskiy Rayon has been relatively calm. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces are trying to block the humanitarian corridor between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and recapture Lachin. All of their attacks have been repulsed. The number of dead and wounded Azerbaijani troops is gradually increasing. In spite of this, the officials in the neighboring republic continue to sacrifice their young men for the sake of their political ambition. The shelling, attacks, and raids on Armenia's border rayons prove that.

The situation in Goris town and the rayon's border areas was tense from noon to midnight on 17 June. The situation worsened in (Garnozol) on 18 June. Clashes resumed in [name indistinct] and Malkhala towns, which are four or five km from (Garnozol). Armenian forces captured the (?heights) in violent clashes. Armenian units also captured some military vehicles. The Azerbaijanis lost many men, while one Armenian was wounded and another killed.

Kapan city and the rayon's border towns came under fire from armored vehicles, tanks, artillery, and Grad rocket launchers last night. The bombardment continued until 0100 this morning. One Armenian fighters was killed and four others wounded. Border towns in Idzhevanskiy and Noyemberyanskiy Rayons also came under fire. A report we received a short time ago says that nearly all the border towns in Martuninskiy Rayon came under fire yesterday morning from Grad rocket launchers and heavy artillery. One person was killed and several others wounded in (Didaksin) town.

These incidents confirm that the Azerbaijani leaders are not interested in establishing security or settling problems peacefully. This policy will only create a tragic situation for our people.

More Shelling Reported

NC1906200792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The enemy was silent along most of Armenia's border regions on 19 June. The overall situation remains exceedingly tense, however. An occasional exchange of machine-gun fire broke the silence in the border regions of Gorisskiy, Idzhevanskiy, Araratskiy, and Tavushskiy Rayons.

In the early morning, Azerbaijani positions in Zangelanskiy Rayon opened fire on Agarak and Syunik villages in Kapanskiy Rayon. Rockets fired from [word indistinct] and Grad mounts caused considerable damage to these settlements. There have also been casualties.

Khndzorut and Bardzruni villages in Vaykskiy Rayon were shelled this morning from the direction of Nakhichevan by tanks and rockets. The rayon soviet executive committee reported that the shelling caused some damage.

The situation was calm in Krasnoselskiy Rayon on 19 June; no shelling or firing took place. This is a worrying silence, however, because a concentration of artillery and armored cars has been observed near Artsvashen village. Residents of Artsvashen are leaving for Krasnoselsk.

Russian Role in Fighting Reported

LD1906163192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to the NEGA agency, the Nagorno-Karabakh headquarters has obtained photographs of Russian servicemen who died in Karabakh while serving in the Azerbaijani Army. The headquarters intends to pass the photographs on to friends and relatives of the deceased. According to the report by the headquarters, about 300 Russians have died in the battles for the village of Syrkhavend alone.

Importance of Fuel Supply From Iran Viewed

LD2006203292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Army is waging an offensive in Karabakh, but the main concern of the Armenian leadership is the possibility of the loss of the narrow section of the Armenian-Iranian border. After Azerbaijan and North Ossetia cut off the supply of fuel to Armenia, the country can hope only for Iranian supplies, which will stop if Azerbaijan carves a corridor between its main territory and Nakhichevan. Armenia thinks such a threat is quite real.

Azerbaijan

Armenian Claims of Russian Assistance Denied

LD2006154192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku June 20 TASS—The Azeri Presidential Press Service described as "groundless" Armenian claims that Russia helps Azerbaijan with materiel.

A statement of the press service stressed the Armenian demands to "restore the parity" in the region are groundless. These demands "come from the state that was the first to enter a bilateral military bloc with Russia thus torpedoing the CIS collective agreement and long before began to use mercenaries and foreign-made armaments in the Karabakh conflict," says the document.

As for part of materiel passed over to Azerbaijan by units of the former Soviet Army, it was established by Azeri-Russian inter-state agreements, says the statement.

In the opinion of the press service, "there could be no parity in these issues with Armenia, since Azerbaijan in contrast to Armenia has not entered the military-political bloc of five CIS countries".

The Azeri Presidential Press Service said once again "the republic keeps to the principles of neutrality in the region, is not a member of any blocs and strives to prevent the expansion of military clashes and contiguous states' involvement in them".

President Urges Unity To Solve 'Crisis'

OW2106143892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey said that the republican leadership needed 2 to 3 months to cope with the republican economic and political crisis. However, the president said, unity of all political and social forces is a key to that. Elchibey spoke at a Saturday session in Baku of the mains of the Azeri Popular Front he chairs.

The president said Azerbaijan planned to establish mutually beneficial, good-neighborly relations with all countries of the world, including the CIS, but only bilateral ones. According to him, Azerbaijan needed such ties with Russia and Ukraine first of all.

President Interviewed on Turkish Relations

TA2106100092 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0945 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Baku, June 21 (AA)—Azerbaijan's newly elected President Abulfaz Elchibey said on Sunday that his country will not be under the influence of any country and will follow an independent policy.

Elchibey was speaking to AA in his first press interview since his election in Azerbaijan's presidential voting on June 7 in which he received 60 percent of the popular support.

Elchibey said Azerbaijan was keen on improving ties with all countries but would not accept being patronized by any state.

The president thanked Turkey for its moral support in his country's dispute with neighboring Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Turkey means a great spiritual support for us," Elchibey said.

Turkey shares ethnic, religious and linguistic ties with Azerbaijan.

Asked to comment on a recent Azeri military operation against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, Elchibey said Azerbaijan was only trying to recapture its own land.

The president said Azerbaijan will open embassies in the capitals of Turkey, Iran and the United States in July.

Elchibey said he would not be able to attend a summit meeting of the Black Sea cooperation pact scheduled to convene in Istanbul next week due to his intensive program in Baku.

Further on Interview

TA2106112492 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 1030 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey has said on the operation undertaken in Karabakh that his country is determined to recover Azeri villages occupied by Armenians and that the city of Khodzhaly will also be liberated.

In a statement to ANATOLIA, Elchibey, who was elected president with 60 percent of the votes in the first democratic elections in Azerbaijan in 74 years, said that the operation undertaken in Nagorno-Karabakh is not directed against civilians and that Azerbaijan intends to safeguard the rights of Armenian citizens as well.

Recalling that the world at large is referring to the Armenians in Karabakh as self-defense troops, Elchibey said that this is not true, adding that Azerbaijan has only reacted against the Armenian army and militia, who have entered and occupied part of Azerbaijani territory.

Pointing out that his country prefers to resolve the Karabakh issue peacefully, Elchibey said that Armenia is opposed to that.

Declaring that no country can dictate anything to Azerbaijan, an independent country, Elchibey said that his country did not request from large countries assistance that will not be repaid. He added that all aid received from abroad will be paid for.

Explaining that experts from Turkey will be invited to establish the Azerbaijani Army, Elchibey said that if necessary U.S. experts will also be invited, because Azerbaijan has all the right to form its own army.

Message Sent to UN on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1906222792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1916 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Excerpts] United Nations, 19 Jun—A message from President Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan was today handed to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The letter appraises the present situation in the region and speaks of possible ways of solving the Karabakh conflict.

The permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the UN, Gasan Gasanov, after a meeting with the UN secretary general, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the members of the Security Council would be acquainted with the proposals for resolving the Karabakh conflict, contained in the Azeri president's letter, and they intended on 22 June to discuss the results of the UN fact-finding mission at closed consultations. More than two weeks ago, the mission was in Nagorno-Karabakh and also in Baku and Yerevan. It is expected that the UN secretary general will report to the Security Council on the situation in the region.

The permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the UN said that, during his meeting with the UN secretary general, Azerbaijan's request for the publication of the report of the UN fact-finding mission was reiterated. [passage omitted]

The permament representative of Azerbaijan to the UN stressed that it was the publication of the report and open information on the events that might be a positive factor in the business of resolving the Karabakh conflict. "The further escalation of the conflict can only be halted when the whole truth is open to the world community concerning this war, which Armenia has unleashed on the territory of Azerbaijan in the guise of a national liberation movement of the Armenians of Karabakh," G. Gasanov pointed out.

'National Effort' Appeals for World Support

NC1906130992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The [pro-Azerbaijan Popular Front] National Effort Organization [Milli Gayret Teskilati] has called on the world to declare 30 August an international day for the defense of Azerbaijan and solidarity with the Azerbaijani people. The appeal, to the UN General Assembly, UNESCO, the Islamic Conference Organization, CSCE, International Red Cross, and Red Crescent,

[words indistinct], heads of state and government leaders, and people everywhere said:

Our people are heading for democracy and freedom, the process gaining momentum after the Soviet Union's disintegration. Relying on the support of pro-imperial forces and violating international laws and principles, nationalist circles in Armenia plotted against Azerbaijan's independence and territorial integrity during (?the past five years). More than 300,000 Azerbaijanis and Islamic Kurds were evicted from their homes in Armenia and all the Azerbaijani residents in Yukhary Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] were forced to leave their lands. Over 100 Azerbaijani towns and cities were occupied and ruined, historic monuments and shrines destroyed, crops set on fire, and houses ransacked.

The Armenians razed Khodzhaly to the ground and savagely shot and killed its residents. The Armenian bandits committed unprecedented acts of violence and killed thousands of women, children, and elderly in Shushinskiy and Lachinskiy Rayons and in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

The Armenian nationalists have humiliated the Azerbaijani people they captured and insulted [words indistinct]. Resorting to the barbaric tradition of slaughter, they killed several on Armenian graves.

The armed Armenians have not hesitated to use internationally banned destructive arms and toxic chemical substances.

In short, the Armenians are committing crimes against people in Azerbaijan—a sin against religion and God. Regrettably, the international organizations, influential countries, large establishments, including the sacred Vatican, and people everywhere have failed to take effective measures to end the violent attacks against the people in Azerbaijan. We call on the world to demonstrate its support for human rights, justice, freedom, democracy, and humanity by defending Azerbaijan and condemning barbarism, violence, aggression, and occupation by criticizing Armenia. We call on people and governments everywhere, large political, social, and humanitarian organizations, and members of all [word indistinct] and religions to organize mass demonstrations, marches, meetings, prayers, and other humane activities to support Azerbaijan.

Defending the independence, territorial integrity, honor, and freedom of Azerbaijan—a member of the United Nations and other influential organizations—is a debt of conscience for humanity. We urge the world to defend justice, peace, and democracy, oppose the use of force, occupation, and bloodshed, condemn (?crimes committed by) the Armenians against Azerbaijan, and prevent Armenia's war against our republic turning into a new world war.

'Official Circles' on Armenian Government Change

NC1906195592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The ASSA-IDARA NEWS AGENCY quotes sources close to official circles in Azerbaijan as saying that many Azerbaijani leaders believe that the collapse of the Ter-Petrosyan administration in Armenia would create an opportunity for better cooperation between Azerbaijan and Armenia's current opposition.

Spokesperson Gives Briefing on Fighting, Arms

LD2006192392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[M. Mamedova video report from Baku; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Lelya Yunusova, head of the military department's information and analysis center, has told journalists that the National Army carried out a number of successful operations from 12 to 18 June in which 27 populated areas in four rayons of Azerbaijan were liberated. It was noted in particular that the servicemen carried out their commander's orders and avoided unnecessary destruction. To corroborate this claim, video film of the liberated populated areas was shown.

[Begin Yunusova recording] When one speaks of a partisan war, I think it should be clear that this is an open call for terrorist acts on the territory of Azerbaijan. [end recording]

The attention of those assembled was drawn to the fact that the Armenian side is continuing to use chemical weapons against the peaceful population. Journalists were shown testimonials and photographs.

The Armenian mass media's claims regarding the mass destruction of the peaceful population were refuted and journalists were told that the National Army did not engage in marauding and repression. Only 20 people were captured. Their colleagues were given the opportunity to talk with some of them who, for many reasons, were unable to leave their villages. They will be exchanged in the near future for Azerbaijani hostages with the mediation of representatives of the International Red Cross Committee, who also took part in the conference.

Troops Warned of Chemical Weapons

TA2006161792 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 1530 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Defense Ministry spokesman Leyla Yunusova has said that the Russian chief of staff's office has alerted its troops stationed on Azerbaijani territory against the possibility of the Armenian use of chemical weapons. Speaking at a news conference today, Yunusova said that her ministry has received information that the Russian chief of staff's office, which is

aware that the chemical weapons potential of the 7th CIS Army stationed in Armenia is under Armenian control, has alerted its troops in Azerbaijan against a possible chemical warfare. Yunusova added that they have proof that the Armenians have, for a long time now, been using chemical weapons in Shusha, Agdam, Terter, and Fizuli.

Giving information on the operation launched on 12 June, Yunusova said that the Azerbaijani forces have, so far, recaptured 27 settlements in Askeran, Geranboy, Lachin, and Akdere.

More on Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhichevan Fighting

LD2006110992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] According to the press center of the Azerbaijan Republic's Ministry of Defense, the situation in the combat operations zone continues to be difficult. Here is Azer Halilov reporting from Baku:

[Halilov] As the Defense Ministry's press service reports, Armenian troops continued to shell villages in Ordubadskiy and Sharurskiy rayons of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic on the night of 19-20 June. The firing came from heavy artillery on Armenian territory. There are wounded among the civilians of these villages; precise numbers are not yet known. There is a great deal of damage in the villages, the Defense Ministry reports.

In the highlands of Karabakh, battles are continuing for the liberation of Azerbaijani centers of population captured more than six months ago by Armenian armed formations who came to the highlands of Karabakh from Armenia. As the Defense Ministry press center reports, units of the Azerbiajan National Army have succeeded in advancing toward the town of Mardakert. Fierce fighting is going on at present around the town of Askeran and near the village of Nakhichevanik, which has been subject to constant shelling by Armenian armed formations. The enemy is suffering heavy losses, according to the Defence Ministry.

Leninavan Captured

OW1906150892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1433 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As reported by Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry, in the early hours of June 19 Azeri units quashed the Armenian fire emplacements in Leninavan, Margushevan and Gasangayryad in the Agderin district of Azerbaijan. In the past few days the shelling from those points had pounded the town of Ter-Ter.

Two persons died and three were wounded on the Azerbaijani side in the missile strike bv Armenian forces against Nakhichevanik in the Askeran district of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Fire from the Gadrut district, Karabakh, affected the Azeri district centre Fizuli and the village of Agbulag nearby. Some damage there has been reported. A civilian was killed in Agbulag and two others wounded.

Fire from the Armenian territory was aimed all night at the border-line settlements in the Zanghelan, Kubatlin, and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan, also the Sadarak district in the Nakhichevan Republic.

According to the Karabakh self-defence HQ since the morning of June 19 heavy artillery and Grad missile launchers located in Agdam, Azerbaijan, have been firing on the district centre Askeran and Armenian villaze of Kvattik in Nagorno-Karabakh. There is some damage, some citizens have been wounded with splinters.

Later Azeri units captured and ruined the large Armeniaan village of Leninavan with a population of 6,000. The attack was supported, according to the self-defence HQ, by 30 tanks and 50 armoured personnel carriers of the 23rd devision of the CIS forces. By preliminary count, there are heavy civilian casualties.

Armenian Takeover of Leninavan Denied

LD2006225392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] The press center of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry issued a statement on 20 June denying Russian mass media reports, referring to Armenian sources, claiming that Armenian armed formations have managed to retake the town of Leninavan, the AN [as heard] information agency reports. At the same time, the agency notes, reports have come in alleging that equipment from the 7th Army, including light tanks, is being transferred from Yerevan airport to the airport of Khodzhaly, which was seized by the Armenians, on CIS Air Force transport aircraft.

Armenia Said To Deploy Tanks

OW2006164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By reports from sources in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian self-defence units in Mardakert and Askeran districts contained the Azeri offensive on June 19, and today have recaptured some settlements. Azerbaijan's forces have retreated to base in Ter-Ter, fighting is going on in the north of the Mardakert district.

In the Askeran district Armenian units have damaged three tanks of the Azeri army. There are casualties—dead and wounded—on both sides.

The press-center of Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry reports that Armenia has sent today through the Lachin pass 11 T-72 tanks, 13 armored personnel carriers, and a convoy of trucks with infantry—some 15 or 18 hundred men.

Nakhichevan Mobilization Order Denied

LD1906192392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 19 Jun 92

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan June 19—The Azerbaijan Defence Ministry denied an earlier report released by TASS about the mobilization in Nakhichevan following the aggravation of the situation on the border with Armenia and continuing bombardment of the autonomous republic.

The earlier report said citizens between 18 and 40 years of age were to report for active service.

The situation in Nakhichevan reportedly worsened after telephone and telegraph communications between the autonomous republic and the rest of Azerbaijan had been cut off near the railway station of Megri in Armenia. Nakhichevan was said to use a back up communication line via Iran.

Commentary on Media Reports on Fighting

NC1906154992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Commentary by Seyyad Aghdabaly]

[Text] Intensifying Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's border rayons and the appearance of Armenian troops in the Yukhary Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] region have forced the Azerbaijan Self-Defense Forces to carry out a series of military operations. The former Shaumyan and several Armenian residential areas, turned into strong bastions by the Armenian military units and bandits, have been liberated from the enemy forces.

Armenian mass media and their supporters, mainly the newspapers in Moscow, unable to tolerate Azerbaijan's operations, published unobjective reports on the situation, trying to convince the world that the Azerbaijan National Army units are bombarding Armenian residential areas in Yukhary Karabakh and the border areas between Armenia and Azerbaijan, forcing the people to leave en masse.

On 16 June, PRAVDA published a report by an Armenian correspondent, entitled: The Karabakh Dispute Is Turning Into War. The correspondent claimed that the arms and military equipment of the 4th Army in Azerbaijan were supposedly placed under Baku's jurisdiction after the Soviet Union disintegrated and that this gave Azerbaijan access to 500 armored vehicles, including 200 tanks, and SU-25 aircraft, Cobra-type military helicopters, and 10,000 infantry units. The Armenian correspondent's calumny is not worth discussing.

Regrettably, PRAVDA's editors failed to consider 4th Army Commander General Popov's official disclosure. Gen. Popov said the CIS Armed Forces in Azerbaijan maintain a neutral stand on the Armenian claims and do not involve themselves in the dispute.

The Armenian correspondent also claimed that the Azerbaijani units occupied Shaumyanovskiy Rayon in the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Anyone who knows the region and the layout of Azerbaijan's administrative territory and who dissociates himself from separatist views, knows that the former Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, established only recently, had no links with the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. Why have the papers in Moscow been worried by Azerbaijan's small-scale operations when they ignored the fact that not one Azerbaijani citizen has remained on his own land in Yukhary Karabakh and that tens of thousands of people have fled from our rayons which border Armenia and which have no links with Karabakh? These operations appear to have harmed their interests.

Further on Kurdish Declaration on Statehood

LD2106205992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Jun 92

[V. Nazaryan video report from Nagorno-Karabakh; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In the fire of war which has fallen upon suffering Nagorno-Karabakh with renewed force, the following news may not seem to be the most pressing but it is very eloquent. In Lachin, where the humanitarian corridor to the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh passes, the constituent assembly of the Kurd Liberation Movement and of all sociopolitical organizations of Kurds operating on the territory of the former USSR has adopted a declaration on the restoration of statehood. Until 1931 the present Lachin, Kelbadzhar, Kubatli, Zangelan, and Dzhebrail Rayons of Azerbaijan made up one whole: the autonomous entity of Red Kurdistan. It is on this very territory that the Kurd people intend to restore their statehood. The center will be in the town of Lachin, the former capital of Kurdestan. Nationwide elections will take place exactly a month from now on 17 July. The once interethnic Azerbaijan is bursting at the seams. The Armenians, the Kurds, the Lezgins, and the Talish people—some earlier, some later—are declaring their political rights and freedoms. Is this not the time to stop and think?. [video shows large gun being fired repeatedly, footage of Lachin, road sign, rally of Kurds carrying placard reading "Kurdistan" and placards in Armenian]

Internal Affairs Chief Gamidov Interviewed

MK2006134792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Azerbaijani Internal Affairs Minister I. Gamidov by Aydyn Mekhtiyev; place and date not given: "Iskander Gamidov: 'I Have Not Arrested a

Single Person for Political Convictions.' Azerbaijani Internal Affairs Minister Believes That Police Must Be Outside Politics"]

[Text] [Mekhtiyev] Mr. Minister, your opponents accuse you of having virtually introduced elements of a state of emergency in Baku, and the police of interfering, on the pretext of combating crime, in the activities of opposition organizations...

[Gamidov] As minister, I declare that I will not allow people engaged in political activity to carry weapons, for otherwise there is a temptation to use them to resolve differences with their opponents. Only policemen may be armed. But things were different during Mutalibov's reign: Each mafia group created its own armed detachments. We have been able to disarm the majority of them in a short space of time. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against those who did not submit. We have confiscated more than 300 assault rifles and pistols and a large quantity of explosives. The recent growth in crime was helped by the fact that officers of the 4th Army were secretly selling weapons to criminal elements.

[Mekhtiyev] The press has reported that members of the "Tovba" party have been victimized for supporting Mutalibov...

[Gamidov] This report is of a provocative nature. To this day I have not arrested a single person for his political convictions. The only arrest from the "Tovba" movement has been of its leader, Khadzhi Abdul, in whose apartment weapons were found. We asked parliament to give permission for criminal proceedings to be instituted against Deputy Khadzhi Abdul for illegal possession of weapons under Article 220 of the republic's criminal code. That is, he was arrested not for political convictions but for possessing weapons. In addition, he had participated in the attempted coup d'etat 14 May. Today law and order are being restored in the capital. Baku hardly resembles in any way the former city, almost deserted in the evenings, in which shots could be heard from time to time.

[Mekhtiyev] Can it be claimed that Azerbaijan's forces of law and order have been depoliticized today?

[Gamidov] By way of an example I can remind you that after my appointment to the post of minister I suspended my political activity and resigned from the post of deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan People's Front. The police must be involved exclusively in ensuring law and order.

[Mekhtiyev] What dictated the decree of Acting President Gambarov transferring the internal troops from being subordinate to the Ministry of Defense to your direct control?

[Gamidov] Four structures were created under Mutalibov: the presidential guard, the president's bodyguard detachment, the internal troops, and the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. Each of these structures served not the state but the individual. The Military-Police Administration was created and for some incomprehensible reason was subordinate to the head of executive power in Baku. It is necessary to adopt a decision abolishing the presidential guard, which Mutalibov created for his own purposes. In my view, the department for ensuring security must continue to be subordinate to the president.

[Mekhtiyev] As is known, Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev is not a firm supporter of the People's Front, whereas you support it fully. Does the difference in your political views not affect relations between the two ministries?

[Gamidov] No way. As you know, Rakhim now holds the post of vice premier at the same time and has been entrusted with coordinating the activities of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of National Security, and the MVD. I have issued instructions to the chiefs of police to obey military commissars unquestioningly. Rakhim Gaziyev and I are working concertedly, and this is already producing positive results. We have succeeded in ending the activities of Armenian bandit groupings in Geranboyskiy Rayon, adjacent to Nagorno-Karabakh. Unfortunately, the struggle against Armenian aggression is diverting considerable forces of ours. Armenian troops recently captured several villages in Kazakhskiy Rayon. People in Moscow sometimes say that Kazakh is in the Karabakh zone, but more than 300 km separate Kazakh and Karabakh.

[Mekhtiyev] Maybe the Armenians wanted to take control of the system for managing the gas pipeline at Kazakh?

[Gamidov] No. The Armenians' goal is to seize Azerbaijani families and drive out the residents so that they will come to Baku and contribute to political destabilization.

[Mekhtiyev] Do you control the activity of the GRU [Main Intelligence Administration]?

[Gamidov] The department you mention finds it hard to submit to control. After we discovered GRU employees with forged documents, 42 intelligence officers voluntarily left the territory of Azerbaijan. I am concerned about what the GRU is doing in our republic to this day: It is interfering in Azerbaijan's internal affairs and sowing panic among the Russian-speaking population. It is regrettable when Russian officers engage in such provocative activity.

[Mekhtiyev] Russian Defense Minister Grachev declared recently that the Russian Army will defend the rights of Russians where they are being violated...

[Gamidov] This viewpoint was propagandized in the past in the United States: We, they said, will defend U.S. interests where they are being infringed. But Grachev must remember that the United States is a developed state with strong democratic traditions. I hope that Grachev's statement is his personal opinion and does not reflect the position of the Russian leadership.

Interior Troops To Ensure Civilians' Security

OW1906122392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1037 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Interior Ministry informed IF [INTERFAX] that it will create interior troops to ensure civilians' security in western Azerbaijan (including Karabakh - IF).

It also reports that 17 deserters from the area of combat operations in Karabakh have been detained over the past four weeks.

A subversive group consisting of 15 members was eliminated in Baku a few days ago. The group was sent in from Armenia to organize terrorist acts at industrial enterprises, above all at the oil refineries of Baku and Sumgait.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Issues Statement on Russia

AU2106141492 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Statement issued by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Council, in Tbilisi on 19 June—recorded]

[Text] At 1600 on 18 June, three helicopters bearing the markings of the Russian Air Force attacked a subunit of the Georgian National Guard in the Tskhinvali region. They fired eight missiles at their positions. Then, from a low altitude the helicopters attacked Georgian villages and fired on them with heavy-caliber machine guns. This was followed by an attack launched by armed formations from the direction of Tskhinvali during which tanks and APC's were used. Consequently, the conflict in the region is acquiring a new character and scale. Russian armed troops are now clearly taking part in it. This means that direct aggression is being committed against the Republic of Georgia. General Kondratyev, deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, was in Tskhinvali during the attack. The Georgian leadership knew nothing of his arrival on the territory of the republic.

According to existing information, Russian troops and combat equipment are being assembled on the Russian-Georgian border in the north of the conflict zone. Against the background of these recent events, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov's statement bodes greater ill. It has become a signal and justification for aggressive actions and the Russian Army's participation in them. It is now already obvious that the internal conflict in Georgia is being used as a pretext for far-reaching imperial adventures that are aimed at the annexation of a part of Georgian territory and the [word indistinct] of the Georgian people. As a result of the attack by the Russian Air Force, there are dead and wounded. However, the number of casualties will be even greater if an end is not put to the dangerous and irresponsible adventure started by the Russian reactionary forces. I believe that the act of aggression was perpetrated without the knowledge of the Russian president and that as soon as he returns to Moscow he will put an end to this foolhardiness. I pin my hopes on the sober-minded members of the Russian parliament who have dissociated themselves from the shameful statement of the parliament's speaker. I am also convinced that democratic public opinion in Russia will not allow the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, which in its time was inspired by political intrigues on both sides, to be used to undermine the negotiating process and the building of democracy.

I am convinced that the commanders and officers of the Russian Army are again consciously seeking to involve the Army in great [word indistinct] military adventures. I base this view on the position of General Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, who does not want the Russian soldier to be [words indistinct] and freedom. (?I place my hopes on) [words indistinct] compatriots' (?selflessness), wisdom, and magnanimity and call upon them not to (?respond) to these provocative acts. I want Russian servicemen and their families in Georgia to realize that no one (?has) the right to infringe upon their security.

I call upon the UN, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, the European Community, and other international and regional organizations to do everything in order to prevent aggression against the Republic of Georgia.

[Signed] Eduard Shevardnadze

[Dated] Tbilisi, 19 June 1992

State Council Backs Shevardnadze Statement

LD2006122992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1142 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Jun—At a meeting today, the Georgian State Council backed yesterday's statement by Eduard Shevardnadze, accusing Russia of aggression against Georgia.

Speaking today, Eduard Shevardnadze asserted that his statement "played its part in preventing an escalation of military operations between Russia and Georgia." He called on people "to show wisdom, self-control, and far-sightedness, not to respond to provocative actions, and to avoid unnecessary confrontation between the population and servicemen, especially with members of their families."

The State Council chairman saw a contradiction between the stance of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and the Georgian-Russian declaration signed in Tbilisi in April, which proclaims, in particular, the inviolability of borders and the inadmissibility of threats and aggression against each other.

We would like to believe, Eduard Shevardnadze commented, "that Russian President Boris Yeltsin does not agree with the dangerous, irresponsible escapade undertaken by reactionary forces in Russia, and that after his return from Canada he will adopt all measures in order to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Tskhinvali conflict."

The SAKINFORM correspondent has learned that the Georgian Foreign Ministry is preparing a protest note for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Shevardnadze Issues Appeal to Rutskoy

LD2206041392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] On 21 June, Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze appealed to Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in an open letter. Eduard Shevardnadze reminded the vice president that during the August putsch they had fought together for democracy.

In Eduard Shevardnadze's opinion, the Ossetian-Georgian conflict has been incited by extremist politicians, and the only way to settle it is through political dialogue and the peace talks, which have been broken off for the time being. The chairman of the Georgian State Council did, however, voice hope of mutual understanding, and confirmed his desire to settle the ethnic conflict through talks.

Further on Letter

PM2206151992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Besik Urigashvili report: "Eduard Shevardnadze's Open Letter to Aleksandr Rutskoy"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Eduard Shevardnadze has described what is currently happening between Russia and Georgia as a political war and has expressed confidence that, despite everything, common sense will prevail. He also called on the country's citizens to prevent any aggressive actions against Russian servicemen stationed on Georgian territory and to solve the problem of the presence of these troops in the country by exclusively civilized means—negotiation.

The Russian vice president's statement has caused a storm of indignation in Georgia. The Party of National Independence held a protest rally outside the Transcaucasus Military District Headquarters and called for the immediate withdrawal of the district's troops from Georgian territory.

Eduard Shevardnadze has sent an open letter to Aleksandr Rutskoy. In particular, the letter includes the following paragraph: "When you called me in Tbilisi recently, you said literally the following: 'I will send squadrons up and bomb your cities...' Knowing your manner and your experience, I did not treat these words as empty rhetoric. I thought that you had been misinformed about events, and therefore sent to you Valeryan Advadze, a member of the State Council whose views on the nature of the conflict and the means of resolving it coincide with mine. He gave you information which, I thought, should have convinced you of our sincere desire for peace. It did not convince you, and I can now see that it could not have done, since you prefer a different course."

It has emerged that there was a telephone conversation between Mircea Snegur and Eduard Shevardnadze the same day. Snegur stated that Russia is supporting neocommunist regimes and is to all intents and purposes carrying out aggression against sovereign states. Shevardnadze, for his part, expressed the view that it is necessary to involve international observers in the conflict zone. He advocated bringing in to Georgia a special representative of the UN secretary general who would be able to familiarize himself with the real state of affairs on the spot.

Meanwhile, armed clashes in the conflict zone continue. This was stated by Aleksandr Kavsadze, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Interethnic Relations and Human Rights. But he categorically denied reports that Georgian formations had entered Tskhinvali and that the residents of the city were issuing an ultimatum that they leave the city. He also stated that the commanders of the two sides' armed formations who are directly conducting combat operations had reached an agreement about talks. These talks will take place in the very near future.

Foreign Ministry Protests Russian Actions

LD2006165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has sent a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation accusing the Russian side of "recently systematically violating the spirit and letter" of the joint statement of the ministeries of foreign affairs of Georgia and Russia.

The Georgian foreign policy department alleges that on 18 June "Russian troops carried out a direct act of aggression against the Republic of Georgia: Russian helicopters fired rockets and machine- guns at Georgian villages in the vicinity of Tskhinvali ... Another fact is that the Russian side has brought a significant number of troops and armaments into the vicinity of the Georgian-Russian border."

"In these and other instances, the Russian side has violated the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia,

encroached upon its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders, used force and threatens to use force, uses economic and other means of pressure on Georgia, and interferes in the internal affairs of the republic," the document says.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Russian Leadership

PM2106170792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jun 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze by Leon Onikova, ITAR-TASS political observer, on 20 June; place not given: "Eduard Shevardnadze: 'Popular Political Cliches Are Distorting the Real Picture and Leading to Irreparable Mistakes.' Chairman of Georgian State Council Answers Questions From Leon Onikova, ITAR-TASS political observer, 20 June"]

[Text] [Onikova] How do you view the consequences of R. Khasbulatov's statement for the situation in Georgia and the situation as a whole in the Transcaucasus and North Caucasus?

[Shevardnadze] The consequences did not take long to make themselves felt. The statement has sharply exacerbated the situation.

I have already made a statement on the Russian Air Force's helicopter attack on guards' positions and Georgian villages in the Tskhinvali area 18 June this year. It was an act of aggression that brought an entirely different dimension to the conflict. The denials by Russian officials are groundless. The claim that it was a warning strike is in effect an admission that it was an unprovoked attack.

Rather less groundless was the threat made to Georgia by the Russian vice president in a recent phone call to me: "I will send planes up..." The reflexes of the Afghan bombardier prevailed over state wisdom.

In the light of recent events Khasbulatov's statement constitutes the political and ideological preparatory fire for the infringement of our republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

That is precisely how all political parties, the public, and the State Council have described it.

For all my personal devotion to political dialogue and my incessant practical efforts to resolve the conflict by peaceful means, I too cannot describe these threats in any other way.

The 15 June statement sharply reduces the room for our peacemaking efforts and cuts the ground from under the Kazbegi agreements, while excessively expanding the bounds of distrust, aggressiveness, and extremism. Forces that are by no means advocating a political solution to the problem have become more active.

Our task has now become far more complicated.

Khasbulatov's statement is of no use to anyone, except perhaps to extremists—on both sides. There are leaders in the region who are prepared to give access to the conflict zone to forces operating from an anti-Russian standpoint. If this happens—and things are heading in that direction—then the entire North Caucasus would go up in flames. Together with the conflict already raging in the Transcaucasus, this would create problems for Russia that would make all the current sources of domestic tension fade into insignificance.

The statement, which admits in principle a unilateral revision of borders—in violation of norms of international law that have been ratified by Russia, and of principles accepted by the world community—is helping to revive territorial disputes, which could lead to a wholesale escalation of uncontrollable military actions. All this will have the most negative consequences for the Caucasus, the Transcaucasus, and Russia.

The main thing now—not only for Georgia but for Russia, too—is to take concrete action to restrict and localize the sphere of damage done to Georgia and Russia, and then to eliminate it.

[Onikova] Might Khasbulatov's statement negate B. Yeltsin's statements about the need to accelerate the preparation of a fundamental treaty on the principles of mutual relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I do not think so. And this is not just a matter of President Yeltsin's incomparably greater influence on the shaping of the Russian state's domestic and foreign policy. Of no less importance is the objective and, one might say, historical need for such a treaty, which the Russian president well understands. I was able to see that for myself during our recent telephone conversation.

We spoke on 12 June this year, and a day later a group of Russian Foreign Ministry officials arrived in Tbilisi—on B.N. Yeltsin's instructions they were to discuss issues relating to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia. We agreed in principle with the Russian diplomats' proposals. Some formalities remained to be discussed, but then came Khasbulatov's statement, and things ground to a halt for still unexplained reasons.

During this period the Russian president was in the United States on an important state visit. The statement from the speaker of the Russian parliament was made in his absence. I continue to hope that such statements will not wreck the agreement we had reached.

[Onikova] What measures, in your opinion, could help to defuse the new crisis—if only partially?

[Shevardnadze] You are right, the situation that has arisen over the past few weeks can be described as a new crisis.

It is very important to trace its chronology—it explains a lot. I was in Tskhinvali 13 May and reached agreement on a cease-fire. A few hours later there was a rocket attack on the region where I and my colleagues were. I described it as an attack on our policy of finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict. A more destructive attack followed on 20 May—a group of Ossetian refugees were shot near Kekhvi village. The next day the economic blockade of Georgia began, and the conflict began to spiral even more tightly. On 10 June in the settlement of Kazbegi the leaders of Georgia and North Ossetia signed a protocol on joint action to settle the conflict and immediately embarked on its implementation. On 13 June there was an act of terrorism in Tbilisi and a clash in Gori between guards and servicemen from a tank regiment—once again people were killed. There was yet another act of terrorism in Tbilisi on 17 June. Destructive forces inside and outside Georgia were clearly becoming more active. It was against this backdrop that Khasbulatov's statement was made. The Tskhinvali region is witnessing an escalation of hostilities in which Russian Army subunits are participating directly.

This gives some people the excuse to claim that we are not in control of the situation. I will not refer you to the numerous examples of uncontrolled situations within Russia and the CIS. I will not cite the sad experience of certain European countries where, despite all the efforts of their leaders and the world community, conflicts are not abating but merely flaring up with renewed force. Something else is more important to me—namely, explaining why, contrary to all our efforts, attacks are continuing and people are being killed. And nobody should try to prove that people are only suffering and being killed "on the other side."

The losses suffered by the Ossetians have been widely publicized. The information war has been just as immoral as the destruction of lives by force of arms. By emphasizing the ethnic origins of the dead, the writers of such reports are carrying out a second murder—murdering basic morality, human dignity, and justice. As if the dead Ossetians were not our citizens and fellow countrymen, as if their blood was, for us, merely water. It makes me sick. I would note, incidentally, that tens of thousands of Ossetians continue to live peacefully in Georgia—in the Kakhetinskiy region, Kazbegskiy and other rayons, and in Tbilisi—without being subjected to any reprisals. And, with us, they weep for the dead—be they Ossetians or Georgians.

It is amazing but true that propaganda is calling for blood. I prefer the voice of reason. If only to demonstrate how disastrous this senseless war is for both sides, I would mention that since the conflict began more than 300 Georgians have been killed, around 4,000 homes have been burned down, and 15,000 inhabitants of Georgian villages have been turned into refugees. Armenians, Russians, Jews, and people of other nationalities have also fallen victim to the conflict.

If I were to make anyone accountable, it would be the politicians who unleashed the conflict. And even if somebody tried to paint me and those who are of the same mind as I am as Ossetian-haters, then, without arguing with them, we would say that we want to save our people from senseless loss of life and suffering. Until the conflict is over both Georgians and Ossetians will be killed. And an escalation of the conflict could spell doom for Georgia. Nobody but an imbecile could suspect me of wanting that.

The simplistic "black and white" view of the conflict and the popular political cliches are distorting the real picture and leading to irreparable mistakes.

A simple but substantive fact is being lost sight of: For two years people have been living on both sides in an atmosphere of mutual hatred fanned by the deaths of their relatives, the loss of their homes and property, and the impact of propaganda and news attacks. And on both sides of the line people can see no way out other than to destroy the "enemy."

This extremism—I am thinking not of political sentiments but of the state of mind and the consequences of living under extreme conditions—encompasses the fighters too. They are living in the half-burned homes of those they are protecting, eating their bread, and seeing their suffering. And it only needs a rumble of gunfire from the "other side" for them to start firing off volleys in retaliation.

Take a look out the window—the State Council building is surrounded by Georgian refugees. They are demanding revenge. The politicians are under constant irrational pressure. The armed formations in the conflict zone are in the same position—only under far worse conditions.

How can we control the situation? We need to do painstaking, delicate, and continuous long-term work. At the political level we need the four-party constructive dialogue which we have already agreed with B.N. Yeltsin. And this should be supplemented by a "lower-level" dialogue between representatives of the sides—be they the commanders of opposed armed groups or just ordinary citizens. We agreed in Kazbegi that the creative intelligentsia, women's and youth organizations, well-known sportsmen, and journalists from Georgia and North Ossetia would be involved in this work. For a political solution to the problem we need to improve the psychological climate, and we have started moving in this direction.

A four-party observation center has started work in Tskhinvali. We have delegated our own representatives to a joint press center. The other day I talked in Tbilisi with the leaders of the Union of Afghan Servicemen about the formation of an international peacemaking subunit which would keep the sides apart and help bring about a cease-fire....

Nobody has the right to accuse us of twiddling our thumbs. But then Khasbulatov's statement appeared, and everything has virtually come to nothing. I have heard claims from Moscow that "noisy propaganda steps regarding the Georgian side's allegedly persistent desire to solve the problem by peaceful means are being taken" in order to cover up the "strategic line of forcing the South Ossetians out."

This is neither serious nor responsible.

[Onikova] Given recent events, what ways do you see to settle the situation?

[Shevardnadze] We have no choice but to seek a path to peace. I have already talked about certain measures we have proposed. We will seek others too, striving for dialogue and conducting it in a spirit of pragmatic compromise. I can clearly foresee two points. The first will be the impossibility of solving all the problems quickly. The second will be the impermissibility of delaying the resolution of the most critical and acute issues. I would include in this category a complete cease-fire, the creation of the most favorable psychological climate for beginning talks, and the return of all refugees—irrespective of their nationality—to their places of permanent residence. This is the first stage, which would allow us to break down the wall of distrust and enmity erected by the conflict. Once that has been removed, there would be scope for action by all our peoples' healthy forces, who have built up many centuries of experience of living together in friendship. By granting these forces a most-favored status, we would reach our goal relatively quickly. If, of course, we are not hampered by people whose aim is to destroy—whatever posts or jobs they may hold.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Resuming Talks

LD2106230192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Interview with Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by unidentified reporter; date and place not given; from the "Itogi" newscast—recorded]

[Text] There have been no full-scale offensives against Tskhinvali. Reports about street battles in the city and its seizure by Georgian units do not correspond to reality, reports the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs' press service. National Guard units protecting Georgian villages are forced to return fire, thus rebuffing the ceaseless attacks of Ossetian militants and suppressing snipers' firing positions situated upon the roofs of Tskhinvali's residential areas.

[Shevardnadze] Unfortunately, as a result of everything that has been said—and I would call what has been said ill-thought out, not serious, and irresponsible—the negotiations process has been broken. Now it is going to be necessary to make tremendous efforts to resume the talks. I very much hope that after Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin returns we will succeed in discussing all this seriously, and by that I mean the situation that has taken shape. I think that we must not lose our equilibrium. I would say let us calmly analyze everything that is currently taking place around Georgia and prevent a further escalation of events. I think that we have done so in the past and that we will find a common language with the Ossetians if others do not interfere.

I have just dictated an open letter to Mr. Rutskoy. I hope that it will be published. One would like, if only briefly, reaction to what he has said and to the Russian Government's statement and all the preceding speeches by Khasbulatov and others. I think that if I were to have let it pass in silence, it would have been immoral and irresponsible. That is why I did react and made a statement.

We are ready to start talks, to resume the talks today with everyone. Kulumbegov (?heaps dirt upon us). I am ready. I did invite him to Tbilisi after my visit to Tskhinvali. I am ready to meet him tomorrow. I have friends in the Northern Caucasus and in North Ossetia and we had fine conversations and meetings. We have approached very important accords. I am ready to resume what has been set in motion tomorrow. I can not see any other way. There is no military solution. It is a pity that the Russian Government, or, to be more correct, Russia's representatives—some of Russia's representatives—interfere so shamelessly, so crudely in our affairs, especially since we had already determined our planned policy line by announcing a course aimed at a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Conflict, CIS

LD2106205292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] In an interview to the Turin newspaper LA STAMPA, Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze expressed the conviction that agreement may be reached on the situation in South Ossetia in a relatively short time if the Russian leadership adopts a correct position and does not support the provocateurs and if President Yeltsin takes part in the talks.

He noted also that Georgia does not intend to join the CIS in the near future but it will strive to strengthen its relations with all member countries of the Commonwealth.

Eduard Shevardnadze reported that a draft treaty between Georgia and Russia is being elaborated now which will establish the legal basis of the stay of Russian troops on Georgian territory.

In reply to a correspondent's question on the fate of perestroyka, the former minister of foreign affairs of the former USSR, one of the main architects of perestroyka, pointed out that the very fact of the creation of 15 independent states on the expanse of the Soviet empire has guaranteed perestroyka a place in history.

Democratic Party Official Accuses Russia of War

LD2106224492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Government statement is nothing other than a declaration of war against Georgia. This is the view of Giorgiy Chanturia, chairman of Georgia's National Democratic Party. He appealed to the United Nations, to the governments of other countries, and to international human rights organizations to support independent Georgia and to condemn Russia's actions.

Official Says No Plans for Tskhinvali Ultimatum

LD2206095692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Aleksandr Kavsadze, deputy prime minister of Georgia, has announced that Georgian armed formations do not intend to issue any kind of ultimatum to the defenders of Tskhinvali, or enter the town. He asserted that these formations are quartered in Georgian villages in South Ossetia, and that they are tasked with protecting civilians.

A statement by him was issued in Moscow by the Georgian mission's press center. The document stresses that the Georgian side intends to resolve the conflict in South Ossetia by peaceful means and is doing everything it can in this respect. Kavsadze said that the leaders of the warring sides' armed groups have agreed to talks that should take place any day. Meanwhile, INTERFAX reports that Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has postponed his trip to Vladikavkaz due to his work.

National Guard Threatens To Eradicate Tskhinvali

LD2106132192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The Georgian National Guard gave the defenders of Tskhinvali an ultimatum overnight: If they do not give up the town by 1800 it will be stormed and wiped off the earth. This was revealed in a telephone conversation to a correspondent by Torez Kulumbegov, chairman of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet. He also said that a decision was made at a meeting overnight between the self-defense detachments and the South Ossetian government to defend the town as long as possible.

Mission Denies Ultimatum

LD2106224892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] We have just received a report from the Georgian Permanent Mission in Moscow which says that the Georgian National Guard has not issued any ultimatum to the defenders of Tskhinvali. The report on an ultimatum is described as disinformation.

For our part, we can report that the news denied by the Georgian permanent mission was transmitted today via the channels of ITAR- TASS.

S. Ossetian Leader Urges Cease-Fire, Talks

LD2106201392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 21 Jun—Three people are dead and 11 are wounded. This is the sad result of the last 24 hours in the South Ossetian conflict area. According to operational reports from the Security Ministry of the South Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic [as received], the militants and the Georgian guard fire periodically on Tskhinvali and the neighboring Ossetian villages.

The defenders of the town are being threatened that unless they leave Tskhinvali, large-scale punitive operations will take place. Radio messages intercepted by Ossetians confirm that armored vehicles, heavy artillery, rocket launchers, and subunits of the Georgian guard are constantly arriving from Gori Rayon and assembling near Tskhinvali. Local residents are afraid that the Georgians are preparing to storm the administrative center.

As the confrontation in Tskhinvali has reached a critical point, Torez Kulumbegov, the South Ossetian head of parliament, today issued a message addressed to the Russian leadership and the media. It says that the Georgian armed forces are continuing to escalate the conflict. As a result of massive missile and artillery shelling, innocent people are being killed, houses and important facilities of the national economy are being destroyed, villages are being burned down, and civilians are being driven out of their native lands. It says that the Georgian side misinforms its people and the world public about the actual situation in the region. It is trying to draw the Russian armed forces into the bloody conflict.

In South Ossetia, the document points out, the reaction to the declarations by the Russian Federation Government and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has been positive. In particular, much comment was aroused in Tskhinvali by those parts of the declarations which say that Russia will not permit the situation in the region to be resolved by force. In the critical situation that has taken shape, the statement points out, it is necessary to immediately proclaim a cease-fire on both sides, to withdraw armed formations from the conflict area, and to start quadripartite talks among representatives of North and South Ossetia, Georgia, and Russia on the settlement of the Ossetian-Georgian relations.

Remarks on Clashes

OW2206122692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two persons were killed and several others were wounded as a result of the shelling of South Ossetia's administrative centre of Tskhinvali by Georgian forces on the night of June 22 [as received]. This has been announced for IF [INTERFAX] by the Chairman of South Ossetia's Supreme Soviet Torez Kulumbegov. Georgian units, in his words, are still on the left bank of the Liahva river at Tshinval.

According to South Ossetian Intelligence, Georgian troops are being massed at the zone of the conflict. 12 "Ikarus" busses with Georgian guards arrived in the Nikosi village near Tskhinvali on Sunday [21 June].

The Press-Centre at Georgia's Interior Ministry has disclosed that Ossetians attacked a group of members of Georgia's State Council on the territory of the Gori area on Sunday. The team arrived to examine the situation. Only 10 hours later, national guards managed to lead the State Council officials out to safety. One guard was killed and several others were wounded.

On the same day, Ossetians attacked a motor traffic inspection post near Tshavan controlled by Georgian guards. As a result, some Georgians were wounded.

Meanwhile, the deputy Prime Minister of Georgia Aleksandr Kavsadze refuted Monday's media report that Georgian National Guard allegedly put an ultimatum to the population to leave the city. As Mr. Kavsadze declared, Georgian units did not intend to enter Tskhinvali. In the Vice-Premier's words, their only task is to defend peaceful Georgian civilians in the region.

Mr. Kavsadze reported in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that the conflicting sides would resume their negotiations within the next few days. Georgian and Ossetian field commanders are to have a meeting.

South Ossetians Welcome Russian Position

OW2106173892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of South Ossetia expressed satisfaction with "the unambiguous position of the Russian Supreme Soviet and government" on the conflict in South Ossetia and views statements by Rutskoy and Khasbulatov as "the only correct step in this situation that can help end the bloodshed and settle the conflict."

A statement signed Sunday [21 June] by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia Torez Kulumbegev and chairman of the Council of Ministers Oleg Teziyev emphasizes that the Russian Federation, successor to the Soviet Union, is the only guarantor of the preservation of small Osset people.

Fighting Continues in Tskhinvali, Other Areas

LD1906214192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have received a somewhat different version of yesterday's events near Tskhinvali from our correspondents.

Kondratyev, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, and Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasian military district, were yesterday visiting a helicopter regiment stationed in Tskhinval. At this time, a strong bombardment of the military unit's territory began from Georgian villages. An order was given to suppress the firing positions, and helicopters took to the air.

According to South Ossetian intelligence information, the Georgian guardsmen have gathered eight Grad launchers, four tanks, and five infantry combat vehicles in the vicinity of Tskhinvali.

Over the past 24 hours, one person was killed and 34 wounded in Tskhinvali as a result of the massed bombardment. The wounded include 16 children, of whom four have already died from their wounds.

Our camera crew, which was filming in the town, also came under fire.

Russian Helicopters Attacked

LD1906166592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1443 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—An armed unit of unknown origin and the pilots of a helicopter regiment of the Russian Armed Forces were engaged in shooting on June 18 in Tskhinvali. After three Russian army helicopters were shot from the ground, the pilots opened fire in return. The Transcaucasian Military District headquarters told PF [POSTFACTUM] that there are killed and injured among the attackers of the helicopter regiment stationed in Tskhinvali, but there is no exact information about the losses as yet.

Troops Enter Tskhinvali

LD2006131692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 20 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 20 Jun— With the support of armored vehicles, Georgian military formations have forced their way into the left-bank part of Tskhinvali. Sub-units of the Ossetian guard and self-defense detachments are putting up an unequal struggle.

The bombardment of residential areas in the administrative center from mortars and grenade-launchers is still continuing. The Georgian side will apparently launch a fresh assault on Tskhinvali in the next few hours.

South Ossetia is seeking urgent help from the Russian Government.

Russian Troops Attacked

LD2006141292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Tbilisi, 20 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—A tank regiment of the Russian forces stationed in the Georgian town of Gori was fired on at about 0100 this morning. As has been reported by Colonel Vasiliy Beychenko, deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, when the Russian servicemen returned fire the shooting promptly ceased. According to preliminary data there are no casualties.

Mkhedrioni Mobilized Due to Crime

LD2106161292 Tbilisi Georgian Radio in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Yesterday, by a decision of the Georgian State Council, a mobilization of members of the Mkhedrioni military-patriotic organization was announced. This was prompted by the sharp deterioration of the crime situation in western Georgia. Recently sabotage, terror, brigandage, and robbery have become commonplace in Zugdidi, Tsalendzhikha, Gali, and other districts of western Georgia, despite the measures which are being taken. The situation is virtually out of control. Later in the day over 500 members of the organization left Tbilisi for Samtredia, where the Mkhedrioni were originally deployed.

'Fierce Fighting' Reported

LD2106074592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0611 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 21 Jun—Fierce fighting between sub-units of the Ossetian Guard and armed Georgian formations is continuing around Tskhinvali. According to reports from the S. Ossetian Supreme Soviet and N. Ossetian Socialist Republic Security Ministry, last night the shooting with artillery, mortars, grenade throwers and heavy calibre machineguns at Tskhinvali and the neighboring Ossetian villages in Tskhinvalskiy and Znaurskiy rayons, continued. Information about casualties is being clarified. The attacking forces of the Georgian side, supported by armored equipment, yesterday seized the left-bank part of Tskhinvali and is under their control. The defenders of the city and the inhabitants of the administrative center were given an ultimatum—to leave the town by 1800 local time, otherwise punitive measures will be taken.

According to information from reconnaissance by the S. Ossetia self-defense committee tanks, APC's, artillery, "Alazan" anti-Grad launchers and missile "Grads" are moving toward Tskhinvali from the direction of Goriyskiy rayon, and the advance of armed Georgian formations has been noted. In these unequal conditions the defenders of the city can not hold their ground.

Unfortunately the balanced and constructive statement by the Russian Government in connection with the critical situation which has formed around Tskhinvali has not influenced the Georgian side. At the same time Vladikavkaz and Tskhinvali are waiting for urgent help from Russia.

Estonia

Vahi Addresses Potential Destabilizing Factors

LD2206022992 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] As reported by the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, in a speech today at a NATO working meeting in Greece, said that Estonia, being a small state, is currently incapable of completely ensuring its security with its own forces. Tiit Vahi highlighted three factors that in his opinion may destabilize the situation in the republic. First, he noted, one-third of the republic's population are non-Estonians who arrived there after 1940. The head of the Estonian Government added that some of them continue to speak out against the independence of the Republic of Estonia. Second, economic issues are becoming more acute in Estonia. The crisis primarily involves former USSR enterprises, where 90 percent of non-Estonians work. The mass unemployment that threatens them may turn into a social explosion. Third, according to Tiit Vahi, a direct military intervention in Estonian affairs is possible. The troops that are under Russian jurisdiction and that are deployed in Estonia are fully capable—because of their numbers—of becoming a force that may remove the lawful power in the republic, Tiit Vahi noted. According to Vahi, the withdrawal of these troops would serve as the most important precondition for ensuring security in the republic.

Tiit Vahi also announced that Estonian self-defense units are being set up involving 6 percent of the population—about 10,000 men. These troops will fulfill strictly defensive functions.

Bank President Reviews Currency Convertibility

LD2206013192 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 6 Jun 92

[Interview with Estonian Bank President Siim Kallas by correspondent Andres Raid; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Raid] Ukraine was the only country with whom a banking agreement was signed [during the meeting in Tallinn of CIS bankers]. What will this simplify for us?

[Kallas] Well, it will clarify matters. The entire agreement system will throw some light on the situation—this ambiguity—that has arisen and will arise in connection with Estonia introducing its own currency. And this system is in order to, well, to arrive at some kind of ground rules. [passage omitted]

[Raid] How will we settle our accounts in the future, say, with Russia, once we have introduced the kroon?

[Kallas] There are two aspects here. First, there are Russian enterprises that will be earning kroons, that will be earning kroons in Estonia. In principle they will be able to use the kroon exactly the same way as we ourselves plan to use the kroon. That means that in principle it will be convertible, and it can be changed back into any convertible hard currency and be used wherever desired, and that also includes taking it to Russia and buying rubles with it.

As far as rubles earned in Russia are concerned, the system will be that for the time being there will be a system of many-tiered correspondence accounts at the Russian Central Bank—and that is because Russian legislation currently does not allow enterprises to open their own accounts with Russian banks—to be held at the Central Bank, which will be in principle be managed through one correspondence account. All rubles that Estonian enterprises earn there will accumulate in this account. What then? What will then happen to these rubles? This is the main thing perhaps: it will be up to each individual enterprise. That means we cannot in any way cart them off to Estonia automatically, and the options are either for the enterprise or its bank to buy kroons or any other convertible currency on the market—the hard-currency market—and transfer them to Estonia. Or some kind of agreement may be reached in Russia—perhaps among several enterprises, organizations, and banks that have a license to conduct business in Russia—and the money will be used to buy goods and various products that will then be taken across the border into Estonia to be sold here for kroons, and then the books will be balanced. So that is roughly what the system will be like. [passage omitted]

Decree on Monetary Reform, Exchange Rates Eyed

LD1906182492

[Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1715 GMT on 19 June broadcasts a 9-minute "special bulletin" on a "decree of the Republic of Estonia monetary reform committee."

An announcer begins by reading the full text of decree number 030 of the Republic of Estonia monetary reform committee of 17 June 1992.

The decree establishes the Estonian kroon as the sole legal tender on the territory of the Republic of Estonia from 0400 hours on 20 June. The exchange rate against the ruble is set at 10 rubles to 1 kroon, and individuals can exchange up to 1,500 rubles at this rate on 20-22 June at specially set up money exchange centers, from 0900 to 2200 hours. Savings bank accounts will also be calculated into kroons at this rate. Individuals can, however, exchange rubles in excess of the 1,500 rubles at 50 rubles to 1 kroon, thereafter, until 1 July, at the reform's base banks. The decree allows banks to be closed to the public until 28 June, for recalculations. Any bank deposits over 50,000 rubles made after 1 May will be examined on an individual basis. Any monies received in Estonian banks after 1 May from other ruble zones exceeding 1 million rubles will be examined on an individual basis and kept frozen while a decision is made, in conjunction with the central banks of those CIS

countries and the Russian Central Bank. Any similar monies received after 19 June will be channelled into one special account at the Estonian Bank and examined, and a decision will be made also in conjunction with CIS banks and the Russian Central Bank.

The Estonian Bank guarantees that the Estonian kroon will be freely exchanged for German marks and back again at an exchange rate set by the Estonian Bank, when documents are presented certifying a trip abroad or a business deal. At 1730 GMT on the same station, President Siim Kallas of the Estonian Bank is interviewed and notes that the exchange rate of the kroon with the German mark is 8 kroons to 1 German mark, or 1 kroon at 0.125 German marks.

The decree was signed by Tiit Vahi, chairman of the monetary reform committee.

No Limits on Sale, Purchase of Hard Currency

OW2006183092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1734 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the currency sections of Bank of Estonia Mart Karmo told "BF" [BALTFAX] that the Estonian commercial banks will be able to sell and to purchase currency from the population after the introduction of kroon without any limitations. Consequently the residents of Estonia can buy hard currency for kroons without any limitations and additional agreements. According to Karmo, the exchange rates for the purchase and sale of hard currency will not differ more than 1%. Every resident of Estonia going abroad can take 1000 German Marks (8000 Estonian kroons) with him.

In the course of the reform the currency accounts of the enterprises will not be closed and the enterprises can use belonging to them hard currency till the end of the year. [sentence as received] With the introduction of kroon the currency, which will be transferred to the accounts of the enterprises, will be exchanged for kroons according to the exchange rate as of the day of reception established by Bank of Estonia. Every enterprise has a possibility to buy currency for bargains on imports presenting the documents confirming the fact of a bargain.

Further on IMF Resources for Monetary Reform

OW1906194492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1827 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The International Monetary Fund [IMF] has decided to recommend its executive council to use the Fund's resources to support the monetary reform in Estonia, and to help provide it with financial aid from the rich industrialized countries, says a joint statement by the IMF and the Estonian government insued Friday [19 June].

The IMF has been regularly receiving exhaustive information about the forthcoming reform and is backing the Estonian authorities' determination to carry it out, the statement points out. The document also notes that at the same time with the monetary reform the price, tax and banking reform should be implemented, and the financial discipline should be tightened. All these measures will "enable Estonia to create conditions for stable development in the future."

"The Estonian ruling bodies and a group of IMF experts have agreed to cooperate in carrying out these economic measures. This agreement is designed to become the basis of IMF's financial help for the monetary reform", the statement says.

Further on Defense Minister Appointment

LD1906143192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The Supreme Council was rushing for the finishing tape today before the summer recess. In the morning Deputy Ulo Uluots was appointed defense minister with astounding unaninimity—62 votes in favor. Jaan Kabin became construction minister. Expatriate Estonians became eligible to vote and the government was given the right to finance establishments and events according to the actual payments received as state budget revenues, until the state budget for the second half of the year is endorsed. The government will have the right to provide financial support from the state budget to the budgets of districts and republican towns, according to the mutual relations of the state budget and local budgets. The resolution will come into effect from 1 July, which means that the government will again have their hands free as during the first half-year.

The Supreme Council adopted a law according to which the [word indistinct] ruble will be replaced with the name kroon in legislative acts, from the day the kroon becomes legal tender. Salaries for the future president, parliamentary deputies, and other important state officials were determined with a law. They will proceed from the average salary in Estonia while being index-linked respectively.

The Supreme Council determined its work for the summer and its recess with a resolution. The Supreme Council's extraordinary summer session will begin on 6 July. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Russian Colonel's Coup Claim Questioned

PM2206124792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jun 92 p 3

[Report by Colonel M. Ziyeminsh: "Russian Colonel Warns of Possible Coup in Latvia But Proves Unable To Back Up His Statement With Facts"]

[Text] Riga—The 6 June edition of the SM-SEGODNYA Russian-language Latvian sociopolitical newspaper carried an interview with Colonel Vladimir Kandalovskiy, chairman of the Northwestern Group of Forces [NWGF] Council of Officers' Assemblies. The interview has produced a lot of speculation and false interpretation in the republic.

We have received information, the colonel claims, that right-wing circles in Latvia are preparing for an armed coup against the I. Godmanis government and against A. Gorbunovs, the head of parliament. We are also aware, Kandalovskiy goes on to claim, of an approximate breakdown of who will be be on what side and who will protect whom. And, in particular, there will allegedly be several explosions which will "divert the attention" of the police and the security services. The plotters will exploit this to seize the Supreme Council and all important buildings, and take power....

Needless to say, this report caused a sensation. But the question immediately arises of what connection the chairman of the Council of Officers' Assemblies of a group of forces (of a foreign state, I would emphasize) has with facts of this kind. And if such information did accidentally come his way, it would have been more logical to pass it on for checking by the appropriate state organs which it directly affects. But, presented in this offhand way by a Russian Army colonel, it caused a sensation in many newspapers.

The report prompted a protest from the Latvian leadership. The republic's Defense Council even met, and the conclusion was as follows: "The activity of the Officers' Assembly shows that it wants to destabilize the situation.... [no closing quotation marks as published] Indeed, this is the umpteenth time that grounds have been provided for it. Admittedly, the NWGF Council of Officers' Assemblies, which met in session recently, has tried to dissociate itself from its representative's statement, calling it his "private" opinion.

Northwest Group Officers Hold News Conference

LD1906230192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] A news conference was held this morning by the Council of the Assembly of Officers of the Northwestern Military Group. Journalists were informed at the meeting of how the Council of the Assembly of Officers assesses the situation in Latvia since the publication in the newspaper SM SEGODNYA of the announcement by the chairman of the Council of the Assembly, Colonel Kandalovskiy, that the Russian forces on Latvian territory are loyal to its government, and in the event of a coup by radical forces will support the lawful government of Latvia. Colonel Kandalovskiy himself did not take part in this news conference because he is presently in Moscow.

It was also disclosed at the news conference that the Council of the Assembly of Officers was not informed that at Gulbene yesterday four Russian soldiers arrived who had illegally entered the territory of Latvia. Nor do we ourselves at the moment have any more extensive information about this incident apart from what was reported yesterday. The officers also expressed their views on this matter, and they are as follows: Soldiers do after all have to be brought in, because otherwise there will be no one to guard all the Russian army dumps and sites on Latvian territory. Mentioned as an example was the [word indistinct] ammunition dump not far from Riga, which is also necessarily strictly guarded, because otherwise there could be serious consequences if it exploded.

The latest issue of the Northwestern Military Group's newspaper ZA RODINU, and its supplement VESTNIK VETERANA was also distributed to the journalists.

Foreign, Defense Ministers Attend WEU Meeting

OW1906175392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1348 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Thursday [18 June] the Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans and Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis departed for Bonn where a meeting of the representatives of the Western European Union's Council of Ministers (WEU) with the leaders of the foreign and defense structures of Central Europe and Baltic region is to be held on June 19. The session is expected to discuss the so-called project "Formula 5 + 3" devoted to the creation of an organization of common security with the participation of the Western European countries, five former socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and three Baltic states.

Nine countries-members of the European Community are known to be members of the WEU: Great Britain, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. This military-political organization is viewed as an architect of the future system of European security. The leadership of the WEU's countries sees the necessity in establishing cooperation with other states to provide stability on the continent, averting by these means difficulties with which the North Atlantic Cooperation Council was faced due to a huge membership.

The WEU proposed to some countries to be an associated member of this organization, in particular to Norway. The Union also proposes cooperation in accordance with "Formula 5 + 3" project to those countries of Central Europe and Baltics which express their wish to integrate into European political and economic systems.

Bill Passed on Privatization of State Property

LD2106102892 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Latvian parliament has approved a bill regulating privatization of state and self-regulated property which

says that the property will be sold or auctioned only for convertible currency, the Latvian would-be currency the lat, or a special privatization voucher.

Under the bill, holders of these vouchers have the priority right in purchasing state property except those items which are to be sold to foreign investors for hard currency. The parliament has also decided that (word indistinct) special Supreme Council ruling, the privatization of state property would be carried only for hard currency.

National Bank, Government Relations Strained

LD2006105892 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Relations between the Bank of Latvia and the country's government have become extremely strained lately due to the Bank's reluctance to extend credit to the government without substantial guarantees.

The government badly needs credits to provide the population with crucial commodities.

Addressing the parliament, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis said a 20 billion ruble credit was necessary to purchase energy and food. (?It was) added that some four billion would be enough to satisfy the urgent need.

The Bank of Latvia has said it may extend a 2 billion ruble credit by the end of the month to enterprises which are solvent enough to repay the loan. The Bank has also expressed readiness to give another two billion rubles in credit to the state budget to ensure the purchase of oil, gas and corn, but demands a staggering interest rate of 70-80 percent per year.

Godmanis says that the high interest rate will restrict the use of the credit. According to him the government will have to either mortgage state property or borrow money to secure the necessary amount of financial resources, (?and that) 7 billion rubles are needed for the purchase of natural gas alone. Godmanis has also announced that unless the Latvian Bank changes its credit policy, the government would borrow money from a foreign bank.

Three point 3 billion rubles are required to buy corn. And if the government fails to obtain the amount soon, the country is likely to face acute shortages of bread in the coming winter, notably in the towns.

Supreme Council Appoints State Auditor

LD2206080992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0800 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The Latvian Supreme Council on Wednesday [17 June] appointed the chief state auditor. He is Austris Kalnins. By training he is a jurist, having worked in several structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including as head of the Administration for the Protection of Socialist Property and the Struggle against Speculation. His last job was as deputy head of the Police Department.

In his speech to deputies, Austris Kalnins severely condemned those responsible for allowing the extensive waste of property. The Supreme Council also adopted a resolution determing the arrangements for the law on the privatization of state and local government property sites to take effect. The first paragraph states that pending a specific resolution by the Supreme Council, only those privatization projects which provide for privatization by selling the sites for freely convertible currency only to foreign investors can be confirmed and carried out. [passage omitted]

Lithuania

Russian Statements Said To 'Incite Tension'

LD2206101992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Statements by Russian officials incite tension, remarked Vytautas Landsbergis in connection with the recent statements issued by Russian high officers and other officials. It suffices to compare their utterances to the 1932-40 period, regarding the neighboring foreign countries in which Russia has some special interests or some unilaterally set up security zones, and the unwillingness to withdraw the remaining interventional army from the independent Baltic States, and especially its intentions to defend, even by the use of arms, the supposedly violated Russian population interests in various other states other than Russia, when totally similarly based expansionist ideas were spread from Berlin and Moscow.

Provocational statements regarding the Russian Army's possible participation in some sort of coup in Latvia, the clamor surrounding the apprehension and expulsion from Lithuania of the putschist Ivan Chernykh, refusals to comply with Baltic States' laws, including even the transport control, and the intimidations by PRAVDA with fictional actions of Lithuania on 22 June—all this demonstrates that a special campaign to increase tension and pressure is being waged. Its coincidence with the unending, illegal transfer of Russian soldiers into Lithuania, and with the escalation of Russian military actions in Georgia and Moldova, must evoke international concern, noted Vytautas Landsbergis.

Withdrawal To Be Key Issue at Baltic Council

LD2106211992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 21 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius June 22 TASS—The demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltic states will be the key issue at the upcoming session of the Baltic

Council opening in Tallinn on June 26, Lithuanian parliamentary Speaker Vytautas Landsbergis said on Sunday [21 June].

Landsbergis said the participants will sign several documents, including an appeal to the G-7 summit meeting in Munich which will discuss the economic and political situation in Europe and assistance to Russia.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said during his visit to Rio de Janeiro that he intends to raise the question of state security of the Baltic states and the withdrawal of troops from their territory, Landsbergis said.

Speaking on Russian troops' activities in Moldova and Georgia, Landsbergis described Russia's statements that it "will protect Russians in other countries" as "very dangerous" and likened them to the "activities of Nazi Germany, which also said it would protect every German in every country."

"The sooner Russia pulls out its troops the better will Russians living in Lithuania feel." He warned that "Russians may be identified with this Army," which "causes tension and conflict situations and illegally distributes weapons" in Lithuania.

Compensation Claim For Troop Damage 'Illogical'

LD1706162492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Isakov, who heads the Russian negotiating team with Lithuania, does not reject the possibility that Lithuanian-Russian relations might become complicated following Sunday's [14 June] referendum on the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the former Soviet troops from Lithuania. According to Mr. Isakov, the Lithuanian demands that military problems be treated as an independent negotiations issue does not benefit the development of a normal relationship between the two states. Mr. Isakov (?has called) the nationwide referendum to be an internal affair of the Lithuanian state, though having some elements of political pressure. He said that it was unrealistic to complete the Army pull-out from Lithuania by the end of 1992. The problem of troop withdrawal cannot be solved in isolation from the Russian Army's removal from Germany, Poland and other former Soviet republics, stated Viktor Isakov in an interview to a BNS [BALTIC NEWS SERVICE] correspondent. Lithuania's demand to receive 150 billion dollars in compensation for the damage inflicted by the military is illogical, since the Army had been within the jurisdiction of the former Soviet Union. Why should Russia pay out the compensation alone?

Landsbergis Receives Norwegian Foreign Minister

LD2206005492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis yesterday received Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, who is visiting Lithuania.

The Supreme Council chairman expressed his gratitude for Norway's assistance to Lithuania, asking at the same time for help in the sphere of national defense—in coastal inspection. Thorvald Stoltenberg said the Norwegian Government would examine this and would tell how it could help Lithuania. Issues concerning non-visa travel and fishing trips were also discussed.

A great deal of attention was devoted during the conversation to the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from Lithuania. The Norwegian foreign minister agreed that the presence of this army in Lithuania was in violation of international law. He promised to support Lithuania's aspirations at various international forums.

Investment Treaties Signed

LD2006130792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Summary] Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg today visited the Lithuanian Supreme Council. Three treaties were signed between Lithuania and Norway: on mutual investment stimulation and protection, on free trade, and on trade in agricultural produce.

On behalf of their respective governments the treaties were signed by Vytenis Aleskaitis, minister of international economic relations, and the Norwegian minister of foreign affairs.

"Lithuania has signed a treaty on investment protection with six Western states: the United States, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and France. A treaty on free trade has been signed with Sweden only, although similar treaties have been signed with the EEC and Finland.

"The treaty on free trade with Norway was singled out by Vytenis Aleskaitis as the most important of the three because, although the Norwegian marked is not large, Norway is not far and links with this state could have very good prospects," Vytenis Aleskaitis said.

"Free trade with Norway would provide Lithuania with a possibility to earn more hard currency, and with lower prices it is easier to reach the market of this state."

Talking about trade in agricultural products, Vytenis Aleskaitis was not too optimistic about Lithuania reaching the Norwegian market. However, the minister believes that it would not be too difficult to penetrate the Norwegian market with other goods such as peat, cement, furniture, and other timber goods, as well as textiles. In its turn Lithuania could purchase oil, fish, artificial fiber, and other goods in Norway.

Aid in Boosting Army Sought

OW1806184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Tuesday [16 June] meeting with the Norwegian Foreign Minister Torvald Stoltenberg the head of parliament Vytautas Landsbergis officially asked the Norwegian leadership to help Lithuania build its own army. He expressed the interest of Lithuania in coastal guard ships.

The guest assured the Lithuanian leader that the request would be passed on to the Norwegian government. He promised support in the speedy withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Lithuania. The minister confirmed the readiness of Norway to help construct housing for officers of the former Soviet Army pulled out from the Baltic states, if the units pulled out from the Baltic are not stationed near the Norwegian border.

New Duties Assigned to Deputy Prime Ministers

LD2206025892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] A decree issued by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius has been revealed according to which municipal government questions are assigned to Deputy Prime Minister Zigmas Vaisvila. Moreover, Vagnorius' nominal duties as head of the government bureaucracy are being handed over to Deputy Prime Minister Vytautas Pakalniskis. The latter is both minister of justice and chairman of the Privatization Commission and had submitted his resignation to the prime minister in the last half of April. This decree is intended to more evenly distribute duties among the deputy prime ministers.

Government Secretary Kestutis Cilinskas, who also submitted his resignation to the prime minister in April, has actually been conducting personnel policy in the government bureaucracy, the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reports.

As has been reported, Zigmas Vaisvila has been in open opposition to the prime minister since April, and in that time he has already been removed as chief of the State Security Department.

Deputy Premier Discusses Political Situation

LD2206111892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0500 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The last topic today is the interview with Deputy Prime Minister Zigmas Vaisvila, which is published today on page three of LIETUVOS RYTAS.

The appeal to the Supreme Council and the prime minister by 10 ministers is also recalled in this interview, which, in the view of Zigmas Vaisvila, was logically ripe; it was already impossible to cooperate in [word indistinct] work, Zigmas Vaisvila noted. Many were surprised by the fact that ministers of differing political orientations had signed a polite and correct appeal in so united a fashion. This indicates that it was not a political question but a businesslike decision. I cannot say on whose initiative it was made. I arrived at the ministers' meeting from the hospital, about one and a half hours late.

Question: How would you explain the fact that the prime minister has remained in office nevertheless, and the ten ministers who drafted the no-confidence statement are also working in their positions?

Answer: The fact that nothing has changed is tragic indeed, especially in view of the fact that the Supreme Council is incapable of working. Thus, at least the ministers must work then.

Question: Following the statement by the ten ministers, you were inclined to resign from the post of deputy prime minister. However, you changed your mind following a request by Vytautas Landsbergis. How long are you prepared to stay in the deputy prime minister's position this time?

Answer: I wanted to take the floor on several occasions to state what I think and what I know. However, many people have asked me not to do that. In the current situation vitally important laws such as questions concerning state borders, state secrets, operations activity, are not being adopted. The question of the National State Security Department, or Service, has not been resolved.

Having [word indistinct] another week or so, the people themselves will go off in different directions and will no longer work in an undefined situation. If I were not in the government, this work process would come into full swing even more so. I understand that as a politician I lose a great deal. However, the time is such that everything must be placed on the scales, and to weigh whether to leave in place the self-will or to attempt to control something, especially since the Supreme Council is no longer able to work.

Four Rayons Vote 'No' on Withdrawal Referendum

PM2206114792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "Lithuania Votes In Favor of the Withdrawal of Russian Troops"]

[Text] Vilnius—A referendum was held in Lithuania Sunday [14 June], in which the republic's citizens expressed their attitude to the problem of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania.

On the eve of the referendum, the republic's mass media unleashed a large-scale propaganda campaign to win the support of the electorate. Lithuanian Television broadcast a recording of a speech by V. Landsbergis, who is at the environmental conference in Rio de Janeiro. The head of the parliament called on all citizens to vote in favor of the unconditional and urgent withdrawal of troops. "The Russian troops' place is in Russia, they have nothing to do in Lithuania," he stressed harshly. All

political forces in Lithuania—which have until now been sharp rivals in the fight for political leadership—are without exception committed to this opinion.

Major organizational measures have also been undertaken to attract as many voters as possible to the 2,150 polling stations operating in the republic.

The preliminary results of the referendum have become known.

A total of 75.76 percent of citizens from the total number of voters presented themselves at the polling stations in operation in Lithuania. Of these, 90.76 percent expressed their support for the urgent and unconditional withdrawal of troops this year and compensation for the damage. Calculating it in terms of the total electoral roll, 68.67 people in Lithuania demanded that the troops be immediately withdrawn.

However, according to the same preliminary information, which evidently has yet to be finalized, the results in four of the republic's rayons proved inauspicious for the Lithuanian authorities. The demand to withdraw the troops was supported by less than 50 percent of the electorate in Ignalinskiy, Vilniusskiy, Shalchininkayskiy, and Trakayskiy Rayons. Let me remind readers that these are the areas with a dense foreign-language-speaking population, and that three of them have a so-called administrative rule system (notably Ignalinskiy Rayon in the nuclear power industry workers' city of Snechkus). According to certain observers, this result in the ballot in the rayons in question testifies to the fact that many Russians, and indeed Poles, living in Lithuania who do not object to the logical demand to withdraw the troops, are dissatisfied with the categorical nature of this demand—the withdrawal of the army this year.

The final results of the referendum will apparently become known Wednesday. A more detailed analysis of the results of the nationwide ballot is in store, but the first comments by leading Lithuanian politicians are optimistic. The firm conviction is being expressed that the results of the referendum will have enormous political significance, since they will become a weighty argument at talks with Russia and also at international conferences where Lithuania can now appeal to the world community with full authority using the positive results of the referendum.

Referendum Update From Polling Stations Abroad

LD1806091892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The 14 June referendum was participated in by over 6,000 Lithuanian citizens and people residing abroad who have the right to be citizens. Referendum polling stations operated in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, the United States, Canada, Latvia, Poland, Norway, France, Russia, Sweden, and Germany. The largest number of votes was cast in the United States—3,730. The referendum statement was supported by 3,711 voters. In Russia 907 votes were cast; 880 of them approved the demand to withdraw the Russian Army from Lithuania. From 570 votes cast in Canada, 566 expressed the same wish.

According to the corrected figures, 76 percent of those having right to vote in the elections took part in the referendum in Lithuania; 90.76 percent of the voters gave a positive response.